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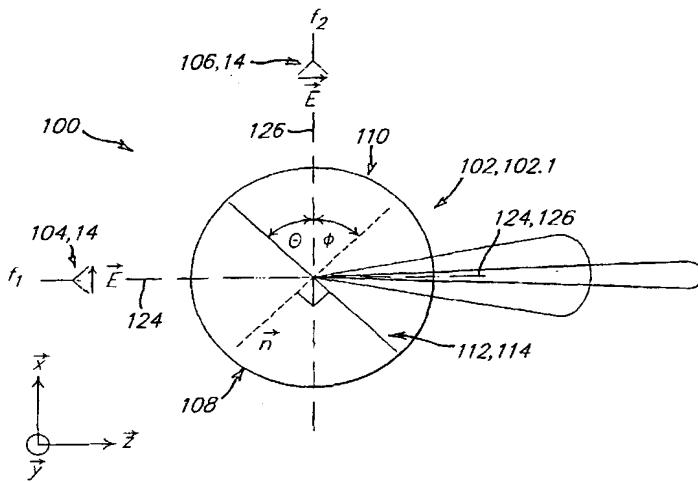
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(54) Title: MULTI-BEAM ANTENNA



(57) Abstract: A multi-beam antenna (100, 128, 132, 136, 144) comprises an electromagnetic lens (102, 102.1), at least one first antenna feed element (104, 14), at least one second antenna feed element (106, 14), and a selective element (112) located between first (108) and second (110) portions of the electromagnetic lens (102, 102.1) with which the respective antenna feed elements (104, 106, 14) respectively cooperate. The transmissivity and reflectivity of the selective element (112) are responsive to an electromagnetic wave property, e.g. frequency or polarization. A first electromagnetic wave in cooperation with the at least one first antenna feed element (104, 14) and having a first value of the electromagnetic wave property is substantially transmitted through the selective element (112) so as to propagate in both the first (108) and second portions (110) of the electromagnetic lens (102, 102.1). A second electromagnetic wave in cooperation with the at least one second antenna feed element (106, 14) and having a second value of the electromagnetic wave property is substantially reflected by the selective element (112).

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MULTI-BEAM ANTENNA

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

5 **FIG. 1** illustrates a top view of a first embodiment of a multi-beam antenna comprising an electromagnetic lens;

FIG. 2 illustrates a side cross-section of the embodiment of **Fig. 1**;

FIG. 3 illustrates a side cross-section of the embodiment of **Fig. 1** incorporating a truncated electromagnetic lens;

10 **FIG. 4** illustrates a side cross-section of an embodiment illustrating various locations of a dielectric substrate, relative to an electromagnetic lens;

FIG. 5 illustrates an embodiment wherein each antenna feed element is operatively coupled to a separate signal;

FIG. 6 illustrates an embodiment wherein the switching network is separately located from the dielectric substrate;

15 **FIG. 7** illustrates a top view of a second embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising a plurality electromagnetic lenses located proximate to one edge of a dielectric substrate;

FIG. 8 illustrates a top view of a third embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising a plurality electromagnetic lenses located proximate to opposite edges of a dielectric substrate;

20 **FIG. 9** illustrates a side view of the third embodiment illustrated in **Fig. 8**, further comprising a plurality of reflectors;

FIG. 10 illustrates a fourth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising an electromagnetic lens and a reflector;

FIG. 11 illustrates a fifth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna;

FIG. 12 illustrates a sixth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating a first embodiment of a selective element;

FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a frequency selective surface in accordance with the first embodiment of the selective element;

5 **FIG. 14** illustrates the reflectivity as a function of frequency of the frequency selective surface illustrated in **FIG. 13**;

FIG. 15 illustrates the transmissivity as a function of frequency of the frequency selective surface illustrated in **FIG. 13**;

10 **FIGs. 16a and 16b** illustrate a seventh embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating a second embodiment of the selective element;

FIG. 17 illustrates an eighth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating the second embodiment of the selective element, further incorporating a polarization rotator;

FIG. 18 illustrates a ninth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating the first embodiment of the selective element;

15 **FIG. 19** illustrates a tenth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating the first embodiment of the selective element; and

FIGs. 20a, 20b, 20c and 20d illustrates an eleventh embodiment of a multi-beam antenna incorporating the first embodiment of the selective element.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENT(S)

20 Referring to **Figs. 1 and 2**, a **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** comprises at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** and a plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** on a **dielectric substrate 16** proximate to a **first edge 18** thereof, wherein the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** are adapted to radiate a respective plurality of **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** through the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**.

25 The at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** has a **first side 22** having a **first contour 24** at an intersection of the **first side 22** with a **reference surface 26**, for example, a **plane 26.1**.

The at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 acts to diffract the electromagnetic wave from the respective **antenna feed elements** 14, wherein different **antenna feed elements** 14 at different locations and in different directions relative to the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 generate different associated **beams of electromagnetic energy** 20. The at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 has a **refractive index n** different from free space, for example, a **refractive index n** greater than one (1). For example, the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 may be constructed of a material such as REXOLITE™, TEFLON™, polyethylene, or polystyrene; or a plurality of different materials having different refractive indices, for example as in a Luneburg lens. In accordance with known principles of diffraction, the shape and size of the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12, the **refractive index n** thereof, and the relative position of the **antenna feed elements** 14 to the **electromagnetic lens** 12 are adapted in accordance with the radiation patterns of the **antenna feed elements** 14 to provide a desired pattern of radiation of the respective **beams of electromagnetic energy** 20 exiting the **second side** 28 of the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12. Whereas the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 is illustrated as a **spherical lens** 12' in Figs. 1 and 2, the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 is not limited to any one particular design, and may, for example, comprise either a spherical lens, a Luneburg lens, a spherical shell lens, a hemispherical lens, an at least partially spherical lens, an at least partially spherical shell lens, a cylindrical lens, or a rotational lens. Moreover, one or more portions of the **electromagnetic lens** 12 may be truncated for improved packaging, without significantly impacting the performance of the associated **multi-beam antenna** 10, 10.1. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates an at least partially spherical **electromagnetic lens** 12'' with opposing **first** 27 and **second** 29 portions removed therefrom.

The **first edge** 18 of the **dielectric substrate** 16 comprises a **second contour** 30 that is proximate to the **first contour** 24. The **first edge** 18 of the **dielectric substrate** 16 is located on the **reference surface** 26, and is positioned proximate to the **first side** 22 of one of the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12. The **dielectric substrate** 16 is located relative to the **electromagnetic lens** 12 so as to provide for the diffraction by the at least one **electromagnetic lens** 12 necessary to form the **beams of electromagnetic energy** 20. For the example of a **multi-beam antenna** 10 comprising a planar **dielectric substrate** 16 located on **reference surface** 26 comprising a **plane** 26.1, in combination with an **electromagnetic lens** 12 having a **center** 32, for example, a **spherical lens** 12'; the **plane** 26.1 may be located substantially close to the **center** 32 of the **electromagnetic lens** 12 so as to provide for

diffraction by at least a portion of the **electromagnetic lens 12**. Referring to Fig. 4, the **dielectric substrate 16** may also be displaced relative to the **center 32** of the **electromagnetic lens 12**, for example on one or the other side of the **center 32** as illustrated by **dielectric substrates 16'** and **16''**, which are located on respective **reference surfaces 26'** and **26''**.

The **dielectric substrate 16** is, for example, a material with low loss at an operating frequency, for example, DUROID™, a TEFLON™ containing material, a ceramic material, or a composite material such as an epoxy/fiberglass composite. Moreover, in one embodiment, the **dielectric substrate 16** comprises a **dielectric 16.1** of a **circuit board 34**, for example, a **printed circuit board 34.1** comprising at least one **conductive layer 36** adhered to **dielectric substrate 16**, from which the **antenna feed elements 14** and other associated **circuit traces 38** are formed, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, deposition, bonding or lamination.

The plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** are located on the **dielectric substrate 16** along the **second contour 30** of the **first edge 18**, wherein each **antenna feed element 14** comprises a least one **conductor 40** operatively connected to the **dielectric substrate 16**. For example, at least one of the **antenna feed elements 14** comprises an **end-fire antenna element 14.1** adapted to launch or receive electromagnetic waves in a **direction 42** substantially towards or from the **first side 22** of the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**, wherein different **end-fire antenna elements 14.1** are located at different locations along the **second contour 30** so as to launch or receive respective electromagnetic waves in different directions **42**. An **end-fire antenna element 14.1** may, for example, comprise either a Yagi-Uda antenna, a coplanar horn antenna (also known as a tapered slot antenna), a Vivaldi antenna, a tapered dielectric rod, a slot antenna, a dipole antenna, or a helical antenna, each of which is capable of being formed on the **dielectric substrate 16**, for example, from a **printed circuit board 34.1**, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, deposition, bonding or lamination. Moreover, the **antenna feed elements 14** may be used for transmitting, receiving or both.

Referring to Fig. 4, the **direction 42** of the one or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** through the **electromagnetic lens 12, 12'** is responsive to the relative location of

the dielectric substrate 16, 16' or 16'' and the associated reference surface 26, 26' or 26'' relative to the center 32 of the electromagnetic lens 12. For example, with the dielectric substrate 16 substantially aligned with the center 32, the directions 42 of the one or more beams of electromagnetic energy 20 are nominally aligned with the reference surface 26.

5 Alternately, with the dielectric substrate 16' above the center 32 of the electromagnetic lens 12, 12', the resulting one or more beams of electromagnetic energy 20' propagate in directions 42' below the center 32. Similarly, with the dielectric substrate 16'' below the center 32 of the electromagnetic lens 12, 12', the resulting one or more beams of electromagnetic energy 20'' propagate in directions 42'' above the center 32.

10 The multi-beam antenna 10 may further comprise at least one transmission line 44 on the dielectric substrate 16 operatively connected to a feed port 46 of one of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14 for feeding a signal to the associated antenna feed element 14. For example, the at least one transmission line 44 may comprise either a stripline, a microstrip line, an inverted microstrip line, a slotline, an image line, an insulated image line, a 15 tapped image line, a coplanar stripline, or a coplanar waveguide line formed on the dielectric substrate 16, for example, from a printed circuit board 34.1, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, deposition, bonding or lamination.

20 The multi-beam antenna 10 may further comprise a switching network 48 having at least one input 50 and a plurality of outputs 52, wherein the at least one input 50 is operatively connected -- for example, via at least one above described transmission line 44 -- to a corporate antenna feed port 54, and each output 52 of the plurality of outputs 52 is connected -- for example, via at least one above described transmission line 44 -- to a respective feed port 46 of a different antenna feed element 14 of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14. The switching network 48 further comprises at least one control port 56 for controlling which outputs 52 are connected to the at least one input 50 at a given time. The switching network 48 may, for example, comprise either a plurality of micro-mechanical switches, PIN diode switches, transistor switches, or a combination thereof, and may, for example, be operatively connected to the dielectric substrate 16, for example, by 25 surface mount to an associated conductive layer 36 of a printed circuit board 34.1.

In operation, a **feed signal 58** applied to the **corporate antenna feed port 54** is either blocked -- for example, by an open circuit, by reflection or by absorption, -- or switched to the associated **feed port 46** of one or more **antenna feed elements 14**, via one or more associated **transmission lines 44**, by the **switching network 48**, responsive to a **control signal 60** applied to the **control port 56**. It should be understood that the **feed signal 58** may either comprise a single signal common to each **antenna feed element 14**, or a plurality of signals associated with different **antenna feed elements 14**. Each **antenna feed element 14** to which the **feed signal 58** is applied launches an associated electromagnetic wave into the **first side 22** of the associated **electromagnetic lens 12**, which is diffracted thereby to form an **associated beam of electromagnetic energy 20**. The associated **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** launched by different **antenna feed elements 14** propagate in different associated directions **42**. The various **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** may be generated individually at different times so as to provide for a **scanned beam of electromagnetic energy 20**. Alternately, two or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** may be generated simultaneously. Moreover, different **antenna feed elements 14** may be driven by different frequencies that, for example, are either directly switched to the respective **antenna feed elements 14**, or switched via an associated **switching network 48** having a plurality of **inputs 50**, at least some of which are each connected to different **feed signals 58**.

Referring to **Fig. 5**, the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** may be adapted so that the **respective signals are associated with the respective antenna feed elements 14** in a one-to-one relationship, thereby precluding the need for an associated **switching network 48**. For example, each **antenna feed element 14** can be operatively connected to an associated **signal 59** through an associated **processing element 61**. As one example, with the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** configured as an imaging array, the respective **antenna feed elements 14** are used to receive electromagnetic energy, and the respective **processing elements 61** comprise detectors. As another example, with the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** configured as a communication antenna, the respective **antenna feed elements 14** are used to both transmit and receive electromagnetic energy, and the respective **processing elements 61** comprise transmit/receive modules or transceivers.

Referring to **Fig. 6**, the **switching network 48**, if used, need not be collocated on a common **dielectric substrate 16**, but can be separately located, as, for example, may be useful for low frequency applications, for example, 1-20 GHz.

Referring to **Figs. 7, 8 and 9**, in accordance with a second aspect, a **multi-beam antenna 10'** comprises at least a **first 12.1 and a second 12.2 electromagnetic lens**, each having a **first side 22.1, 22.2** with a corresponding **first contour 24.1, 24.2** at an intersection of the respective **first side 22.1, 22.2** with the **reference surface 26**. The **dielectric substrate 16** 5 comprises at least a **second edge 62** comprising a **third contour 64**, wherein the **second contour 30** is proximate to the **first contour 24.1** of the **first electromagnetic lens 12.1** and the **third contour 64** is proximate to the **first contour 24.2** of the **second electromagnetic lens 12.2**.

Referring to **Fig. 7**, in accordance with a second embodiment of the **multi-beam antenna 10.2**, the **second edge 62** is the same as the **first edge 18** and the **second 30 and third 64 contours** are displaced from one another along the **first edge 18** of the **dielectric substrate 16**.

Referring to **Fig. 8**, in accordance with a third embodiment of the **multi-beam antenna 10.3**, the **second edge 62** is different from the **first edge 18**, and more particularly is opposite 15 to the **first edge 18** of the **dielectric substrate 16**.

Referring to **Fig. 9**, in accordance with a third aspect, a **multi-beam antenna 10''** comprises at least one **reflector 66**, wherein the **reference surface 26** intersects the at least one **reflector 66** and one of the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** is located between the **dielectric substrate 16** and the **reflector 66**. The at least one **reflector 66** is adapted to 20 reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** after being generated by at least one of the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14**. A third embodiment of the **multi-beam antenna 10** comprises at least **first 66.1 and second 66.2 reflectors** wherein the **first electromagnetic lens 12.1** is located between the **dielectric substrate 16** and the **first reflector 66.1**, the **second electromagnetic lens 12.2** is located 25 between the **dielectric substrate 16** and the **second reflector 66.2**, the **first reflector 66.1** is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the **first electromagnetic lens 12.1** after being generated by at least one of the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** on the **second contour 30**, and the **second reflector 66.2** is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the **second electromagnetic lens 12.2** after being generated by at 30 least one of the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** on the **third contour 64**. For example, the **first 66.1 and second 66.2 reflectors** may be oriented to direct the **beams of**

5 electromagnetic energy 20 from each side in a common nominal direction, as illustrated in Fig. 9. Referring to Fig. 9, the multi-beam antenna 10" as illustrated would provide for scanning in a direction normal to the plane of the illustration. If the dielectric substrate 16 were rotated by 90 degrees with respect to the reflectors 66.1, 66.2, about an axis connecting the respective electromagnetic lenses 12.1, 12.1, then the multi-beam antenna 10" would provide for scanning in a direction parallel to the plane of the illustration.

10 Referring to Fig. 10, in accordance with the third aspect and a fourth embodiment, a multi-beam antenna 10", 10.4 comprises an at least partially spherical electromagnetic lens 12", for example, a hemispherical electromagnetic lens, having a curved surface 68 and a boundary 70, for example a flat boundary 70.1. The multi-beam antenna 10", 10.4 further comprises a reflector 66 proximate to the boundary 70, and a plurality of antenna feed elements 14 on a dielectric substrate 16 proximate to a contoured edge 72 thereof, wherein each of the antenna feed elements 14 is adapted to radiate a respective plurality of 15 beams of electromagnetic energy 20 into a first sector 74 of the electromagnetic lens 12". The electromagnetic lens 12" has a first contour 24 at an intersection of the first sector 74 with a reference surface 26, for example, a plane 26.1. The contoured edge 72 has a second contour 30 located on the reference surface 26 that is proximate to the first contour 24 of the first sector 74. The multi-beam antenna 10", 10.4 further comprises a 20 switching network 48 and a plurality of transmission lines 44 operatively connected to the antenna feed elements 14 as described hereinabove for the other embodiments.

25 In operation, at least one feed signal 58 applied to a corporate antenna feed port 54 is either blocked, or switched to the associated feed port 46 of one or more antenna feed elements 14, via one or more associated transmission lines 44, by the switching network 48 responsive to a control signal 60 applied to a control port 56 of the switching network 48. Each antenna feed element 14 to which the feed signal 58 is applied launches an associated electromagnetic wave into the first sector 74 of the associated electromagnetic lens 12". The electromagnetic wave propagates through -- and is diffracted by -- the curved surface 68, and is then reflected by the reflector 66 proximate to the boundary 70, whereafter the reflected electromagnetic wave propagates through the electromagnetic lens 12" and exits - 30 - and is diffracted by -- a second sector 76 as an associated beam of electromagnetic energy 20. With the reflector 66 substantially normal to the reference surface 26 -- as illustrated in Fig. 10 -- the different beams of electromagnetic energy 20 are directed by the associated

antenna feed elements 14 in different directions that are nominally substantially parallel to the reference surface 26.

Referring to **Fig. 11**, in accordance with a fourth aspect and a fifth embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 10''**, 10.5 comprises an **electromagnetic lens 12** and plurality of dielectric substrates 16, each comprising a set of **antenna feed elements 14** and operating in accordance with the description hereinabove. Each set of **antenna feed elements 14** generates (or is capable of generating) an associated set of **beams of electromagnetic energy 20.1, 20.2 and 20.3**, each having associated **directions 42.1, 42.2 and 42.3**, responsive to the associated **feed 58 and control 60 signals**. The associated **feed 58 and control 60 signals** are either directly applied to the associated **switch network 48** of the respective sets of **antenna feed elements 14**, or are applied thereto through a **second switch network 78** have associated **feed 80 and control 82 ports**, each comprising at least one associated signal. Accordingly, the **multi-beam antenna 10''**, 10.4 provides for transmitting or receiving one or more beams of electromagnetic energy over a three-dimensional space.

The **multi-beam antenna 10** provides for a relatively wide field-of-view, and is suitable for a variety of applications, including but not limited to automotive radar, point-to-point communications systems and point-to-multi-point communication systems, over a wide range of frequencies for which the **antenna feed elements 14** may be designed to radiate, for example, 1 to 200 GHz. Moreover, the **multi-beam antenna 10** may be configured for either mono-static or bi-static operation.

Referring to **Fig. 12**, in accordance with a fifth aspect and a sixth embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 100** comprises an **electromagnetic lens 102**, at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14**, and at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14**. The **electromagnetic lens 102** comprises **first 108 and second 110 portions**, wherein the at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14** is located proximate to the **first portion 108** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**, and the at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14** is located proximate to the **second portion 110** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**, so that the respective **feed elements 104 106, 14** cooperate with the respective **portions 108, 110** of the **electromagnetic lens 102** to which they are proximate. For example, the **electromagnetic lens 102** may comprise either a **spherical lens 102.1**, a Luneburg lens, a spherical shell lens,

a hemispherical lens, an at least partially spherical lens, an at least partially spherical shell lens, a cylindrical lens, or a rotational lens – divided into **first 108** and **second 110 portions**.

The **multi-beam antenna 100** further comprises a **selective element 112** located between the **first 108** and **second 110 portions** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**, wherein the **selective element 112** has a transmissivity and a reflectivity that are responsive to an electromagnetic wave property, for example either frequency or polarization. The transmissivity of the **selective element 112** is adapted so that a first electromagnetic wave, in cooperation with the **first antenna feed element 104, 14** and having a first value of the electromagnetic wave property, is substantially transmitted through the **selective element 112** so as to propagate in both the **first 108** and **second 110 portions** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**. The reflectivity of the **selective element 112** is adapted so that a second electromagnetic wave, in cooperation with the **second antenna feed element 106, 14** and having a second value of the electromagnetic wave property, is substantially reflected by the **selective element 112**. In the sixth embodiment illustrated in Fig. 12, the **selective element 112** is adapted with a **frequency selective surface 114** – essentially a diplexer -- so that the transmissivity and reflectivity thereof are responsive to the frequency of an electromagnetic wave impinging thereon. Accordingly, a first electromagnetic wave having a **first carrier frequency f_1** and cooperating with the **first antenna feed element 104, 14** is transmitted, with relatively little attenuation, through the **selective element 112**, and a second electromagnetic wave having a **second carrier frequency f_2** – different from the **first carrier frequency f_1** – and cooperating with the **second antenna feed element 106, 14** is reflected, with relatively little attenuation, by the **selective element 112**.

The **frequency selective surface 114** can be constructed by forming a periodic structure of conductive elements, e.g. by etching a conductive sheet on a substrate material having a relatively low dielectric constant, e.g. DUROID™ or TEFLON™. For example, referring to Fig. 13, the **frequency selective surface 114** is formed by a field of what are known as **Jerusalem Crosses 116**, which provides for reflectivity and transmissivity characteristics illustrated in Figs. 14 and 15 respectively, wherein the **frequency selective surface 114** is sized so as to substantially transmit a first electromagnetic wave having an associated **first carrier frequency f_1** of 77 GHz, and to substantially reflect a second electromagnetic wave having an associated **first carrier frequency f_1** of 24 GHz. In Figs. 14 and 15, “O” and “P” represent orthogonal and parallel polarizations respectively. Each **Jerusalem Cross 116** is

separated from a surrounding **conductive surface 118** by a **slot 120** that is etched thereinto, wherein the **slot 120** has an associated **slot width ws**. Each **Jerusalem Cross 116** comprises four **legs 122** of **leg length L** and **leg width wm** extending from a central square hub and forming a cross. Adjacent **Jerusalem Crosses 116** are separated from one another by the 5 associated **slots 120**, and by **conductive gaps G**, so as to form a periodic structure with a **periodicity DX** in both associated directions of the **Jerusalem Crosses 116**. The exemplary embodiment illustrated in **Fig. 13** having a pass frequency of 77 GHz is characterized as follows: **slot width ws = 80 microns**, **leg width wm = 200 microns**, **gap G = 150 microns**, **leg length L = 500 microns**, and **periodicity DX = 1510 microns** (in both orthogonal directions), 10 where **DX=wm+ 2(L+ws)+G**. Generally the **frequency selective surface 114** comprises a periodic structure of conductive elements, for example, located on a dielectric substrate, for example, substantially located on a plane. The conductive elements need not necessarily be located on a substrate. For example, the **frequency selective surface 114** could be constructed from a conductive material with periodic holes or openings of appropriate size, 15 shape and spacing. Alternately, the **frequency selective surface 114** may comprise a conductive layer on one or both inner surfaces of the respective **first 108** and **second 110** portions of the **electromagnetic lens 102**. Whereas **Fig. 13** illustrates a **Jerusalem Cross 116** as a kernel element of the associate periodic structure of the **frequency selective surface 114**, other shapes for the kernel element are also possible, for example circular, doughnut, 20 rectangular, square, or potent cross, for example, as illustrated in the following technical papers that are incorporated herein by reference: “Antenna Design on Periodic and Aperiodic Structures” by Zhifang Li, John L. Volakis and Panos Y. Papalambros accessible at Internet address <http://ode.engin.umich.edu/papers/APS2000.pdf>; and “Plane Wave Diffraction by Two-Dimensional Gratings of Inductive and Capacitive Coupling Elements” by Yu. N. 25 Kazantsev, V.P. Mal’tsev, E.S. Sokolovskaya, and A.D. Shatov in “Journal of Radioelectronics” N. 9, 2000 accessible at Internet address <http://jre.cplire.ru/jre/sep00/4/text.html>.

Experiments have also shown that in a system with **first f₁** and **second f₂** carrier frequencies selected from 24 GHz and 77 GHz, an electromagnetic wave having a 24 GHz carrier frequency generates harmonic modes when passed through the **frequency selective surface 114** illustrated in **Fig. 13**. Accordingly, the **first carrier frequency f₁** (of the transmitted electromagnetic wave) greater than the **second carrier frequency f₂** (of the reflected electromagnetic wave) would beneficially provide for reduced harmonic modes. 30

However, it is possible to have a wider field of view in the transmitted electromagnetic wave than in the reflected electromagnetic wave. More particularly, the beam patterns from a reflected feed source are, for example, only well behaved over a range of approximately $\pm 20^\circ$, which would limit the field of view to approximately 40° . In some applications, e.g. 5 automotive radar, it is beneficial for the lower frequency electromagnetic wave to have a wider field of view. Accordingly, it can be beneficial for the **first carrier frequency f_1** (of the transmitted electromagnetic wave) to have the lower frequency (e.g. 24 GHz), which can be facilitated with a **multiple layer frequency selective surface 114**.

10 The **frequency selective surface 114** may comprise either a single layer or a multiple layer. A **multiple layer frequency selective surface 114** may provide for controlling the harmonic modes, for example, as generated by the lower frequency radiation, thereby improving the transmission of the lower frequency radiation through the **frequency selective surface 114**, so as to provide for a wider field of view of the associated radiation pattern extending from the **electromagnetic lens 102**.

15 The at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14** and at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14** comprises respective end-fire antenna elements adapted to launch electromagnetic waves in a direction substantially towards the **first 108 and second 110 portions of the at least one electromagnetic lens 102** respectively. For example, each of the 20 respective end-fire antenna elements may be either a Yagi-Uda antenna, a coplanar horn antenna, a Vivaldi antenna, a tapered dielectric rod, a slot antenna, a dipole antenna, or a helical antenna.

25 The at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14** has a corresponding at least one **first axis of principal gain 124**, which is directed through both the **first 108 and second 110 portions of the electromagnetic lens 102**, and the at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14** has a corresponding at least one **second axis of principal gain 126**, which is directed through at least the **second portion 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102**, and the at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14** and the **selective element 112** are adapted so that a reflection at least one **second axis of principal gain 126** from the **selective element 112** is generally aligned with at least one **first axis of principal gain 124** in the **second portion 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102**.

Referring to **Fig. 16a**, in accordance with a seventh embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 128** incorporates a **polarization selective element 130** for which the reflectivity or transmissivity thereof is responsive to the polarization of the electromagnetic wave impinging thereon. More particularly, one of two orthogonal polarizations is substantially transmitted by the **polarization selective element 130**, and the other of two orthogonal polarizations is substantially reflected by the **polarization selective element 130**. For example, the first electromagnetic wave associated with the **first antenna feed element 104, 14** is polarized in the **y** direction -- e.g. by rotating the **first antenna feed element 104, 14** relative to the **second antenna feed element 106, 14**, or by an associated antenna feed element that is orthogonally polarized with respect to the associated underlying substrate -- so as to be substantially transmitted (i.e. with relatively small attenuation) through the **polarization selective element 130**; and the second electromagnetic wave associated with the **second antenna feed element 106, 14** is polarized in the **z** direction so as to be substantially reflected by the **polarization selective element 130**. For example, the **polarization selective element 130** can be what is known as a polarized reflector, wherein the **second antenna feed element 106, 14** is adapted to have the same polarization as the polarized reflector. For example, a polarized reflective surface can be fabricated by etching properly dimensioned parallel metal lines at an associated proper spacing on a relatively low dielectric substrate.

Referring to **Fig. 17**, in accordance with an eighth embodiment of a **multi-beam antenna 132** incorporating a **polarization selective element 130**, a **polarization rotator 134** is incorporated between the **first antenna feed element 104, 14** and the **electromagnetic lens 102** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**, for example, so that the **first 104 and second 106 antenna feed elements 14** can be constructed on a common substrate. Alternately, instead of incorporating a separate **polarization rotator 134**, the **first portion 108 of the electromagnetic lens 102** may be adapted to incorporate an associated polarization rotator.

It should be understood that the **polarization selective element 130** and associated **second antenna feed element 106, 14**, or **polarization rotator 134** proximate thereto, may alternately be adapted as was the **first antenna feed element 104, 14**, or **polarization rotator 134** proximate thereto, in the embodiments of **Figs. 16a and 17**. The resulting beam patterns for a **polarization selective element 130** would be similar to those for a **frequency selective surface 114**.

Referring to **Fig. 18**, in accordance with a ninth embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 136** incorporates a plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** and a plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** so as to provide for multi-beam coverage by each. The plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** has an associated **first median axis of principal gain 138**, and the plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** has an associated **second median axis of principal gain 140**.

For example, by orienting the **frequency selective surface 114** at an angle $\theta = 45^\circ$ to the intended median direction of propagation, and the plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** at an angle $\theta + \phi = 90^\circ$, the associated second electromagnetic wave(s) can be propagated in the intended direction. By orienting the plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** on the median axis of intended propagation, the associated first electromagnetic wave(s) will propagate through the **selective element 112** along the intended direction of propagation. The particular angle θ is not considered to be limiting. Moreover, a **polarization selective element 130** can generally operate over a relatively wide range of angles.

The pluralities of **first 104 and second 106 antenna feed elements 106, 14** may be constructed as described hereinabove for the embodiments illustrated in **Figs. 1-5**, wherein the direction for at least one the first end-fire antenna elements is different for the direction of at least another the first end-fire antenna element, and the direction for at least one the second end-fire antenna element is different for the direction of at least another the second end-fire antenna element.

For example, the at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14** comprises a plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** arranged substantially on a first plane, and the at least one **second antenna feed element 106, 14** comprises a plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** arranged substantially on a second plane. The first and second planes are at least substantially parallel to one another in one embodiment, and may be at least substantially coplanar so as to provide for mounting all of the **antenna feed elements 104, 106, 14** on a common substrate.

The at least one **first antenna feed element 104, 14** has a corresponding **first median axis of principal gain 138**, which is directed through both the **first 108 and second 110 portion 110** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**. The at least one **second antenna feed element**

106, 14 has a corresponding second median axis of principal gain 140, which is directed through at least the second portion 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102, and the at least one second antenna feed element 106, 14 and the selective element 112 are adapted so that a reflection 142 of the second median axis of principal gain 140 from the selective element 5 112 is generally aligned with the first median axis of principal gain 138 in the second portion 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102.

Referring to **Fig. 19**, in accordance with a tenth embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 144** is adapted for improved performance, resulting in an offset angle of about 25 degrees for the 10 frequency selective surface 114 illustrated in **Fig. 13**, for a **first carrier frequency f_1** of 77 GHz, and a **second carrier frequency f_2** of 24 GHz.

Referring to **Fig. 20**, in accordance with an eleventh embodiment, a **multi-beam antenna 146** comprises a **frequency selective surface 114** oriented orthogonal to that illustrated in **Fig. 18**, wherein the associated plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** and the associated plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** are each orthogonal to the 15 respective orientations illustrated in **Fig. 18**. More particularly, the plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** are oriented substantially in the **y-z** plane, and the plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** are oriented substantially in the **x-y** plane, so that the plurality of **first antenna feed elements 104, 14** and the plurality of **second antenna feed elements 106, 14** are each substantially perpendicular to the **x-z** plane.

20 The **multi-beam antenna 100** can be used to either transmit or receive electromagnetic waves. In operation, a first electromagnetic wave is transmitted or received along a first direction through an **first portion 108** of an **electromagnetic lens 102**, and a second electromagnetic wave is transmitted or received through a **second portion 110** of the **electromagnetic lens 102**. A substantial portion of the second electromagnetic wave is 25 reflected from a **selective element 112** in a region between the **first 108 and second 110 portions of the electromagnetic lens 102**. The operations of transmitting or receiving a second electromagnetic wave through a **second portion 110** of the **electromagnetic lens 102** and reflecting the second electromagnetic wave from the **selective element 112** in a region between the **first 108 and second portions 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102** are adapted 30 so that both the first and second electromagnetic waves propagate along a similar median direction within the **second portion 110 of the electromagnetic lens 102**, and the **selective**

element 112 transmits the first electromagnetic wave and reflects the second electromagnetic wave responsive to either a difference in carrier frequency or a difference in polarization of the first and second electromagnetic waves.

Accordingly, the **multi-beam antenna 100, 128, 132, 136, 144 or 146** provides for 5 using a **common electromagnetic lens 102** to simultaneously focus electromagnetic waves having two different carrier frequencies f_1, f_2 , thereby providing for different applications without requiring separate associated apertures, thereby providing for a more compact overall package size. One particular application of the **multi-beam antenna 100, 128, 132, 136, 144 or 146** is for automotive radar for which 24 GHz radiation would be used for relatively near 10 range, wide field of view, collision avoidance applications, as well as stop and go functionality and parking aid, and 77 GHz radiation would be used for long range autonomous cruise control applications. Using the same aperture provides for substantially higher gain and narrower beamwidths for the shorter wavelength 77 GHz radiation, hence allowing long range performance. The 24 GHz radiation would, on the other hand, present 15 proportionally wider beamwidths and lower gain, suitable for wider field of view, shorter range applications.

While specific embodiments have been described in detail in the foregoing detailed description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, those with ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed 20 in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and not limiting as to the scope of the invention, which is to be given the full breadth of the appended claims and any and all equivalents thereof.

WE CLAIM:

1. A multi-beam antenna, comprising:

- a. an electromagnetic lens, wherein said electromagnetic lens comprises a first portion and a second portion;
- 5 b. at least one first antenna feed element, wherein said at least one first antenna feed element is adapted to cooperate with said first portion of said electromagnetic lens;
- c. at least one second antenna feed element, wherein said at least one second antenna feed element is adapted to cooperate with said second portion of said electromagnetic lens; and
- 10 d. a selective element located between said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens, wherein said selective element has a transmissivity and a reflectivity, said transmissivity and said reflectivity are responsive to an electromagnetic wave property, the transmissivity of said selective element is adapted so that a first electromagnetic wave having a first value of said electromagnetic wave property is substantially transmitted through said selective element so as to propagate in both said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens, the reflectivity of said selective element is adapted so that a second electromagnetic wave having a second value of said electromagnetic wave property is substantially reflected by said selective element, said first electromagnetic wave cooperates with said at least one first antenna feed element, 15 and said second electromagnetic wave cooperates with said at least one second antenna feed element.
- 20 2. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic lens is selected from a spherical lens, a Luneburg lens, a spherical shell lens, a hemispherical lens, an at least partially spherical lens, an at least partially spherical shell lens, a cylindrical lens, and a rotational lens.

3. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one first antenna feed element has a corresponding at least one first axis of principal gain, said at least one first axis of principal gain is directed through both said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens, said at least one second antenna feed element has a corresponding at least one second axis of principal gain, said at least one second axis of principal gain is directed through at least said second portion of said electromagnetic lens, and said at least one second antenna feed element and said selective element are adapted so that a reflection of at least one of said at least one second axis of principal gain from said selective element is generally aligned with at least one said at least one first axis of principal gain in said second portion of said electromagnetic lens.
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4. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one first antenna feed element has a corresponding first median axis of principal gain, said first median axis of principal gain is directed through both said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens, said at least one second antenna feed element has a corresponding second median axis of principal gain, said second median axis of principal gain is directed through at least said second portion of said electromagnetic lens, and said at least one second antenna feed element and said selective element are adapted so that a reflection of said second median axis of principal gain from said selective element is generally aligned with said first median axis of principal gain in said second portion of said electromagnetic lens.
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5. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one first antenna feed element comprises a first end-fire antenna element adapted to launch electromagnetic waves in a direction substantially towards said first portion of said at least one electromagnetic lens, said direction for at least one said first end-fire antenna element is different for said direction of at least another said first end-fire antenna element, at least one second antenna feed element comprises a second end-fire antenna element adapted to launch electromagnetic waves in a direction substantially towards said second portion of said at least one electromagnetic lens, and said direction for at least one said second end-fire antenna element is different for said direction of at least another said second end-fire antenna element.
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6. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 5, wherein said first and second end-fire antenna elements are selected from a Yagi-Uda antenna, a coplanar horn antenna, a Vivaldi antenna, a tapered dielectric rod, a slot antenna, a dipole antenna, and a helical antenna.
7. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one first antenna feed element comprises a plurality of first antenna feed elements arranged substantially on a first plane, and said at least one second antenna feed element comprises a plurality of first antenna feed elements arranged substantially on a second plane.
8. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 7, wherein said first and second planes are at least substantially parallel to one another.
9. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 8, wherein said first and second planes are at least substantially coplanar.
10. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said selective element is substantially located on a third plane.
11. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 7, wherein said first plane, said second plane, and said selective element are each substantially perpendicular to a fourth plane.
12. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic wave property comprises frequency.
13. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 12, wherein said first electromagnetic wave comprises a first carrier frequency, said second electromagnetic wave comprises a second carrier frequency, and said second carrier frequency is different from said first carrier frequency.
14. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 12, wherein said selective element comprises a plurality of kernel elements, each said kernel element comprising either a conductor or an aperture in a conductor, each said kernel element having a shape selected from a Jerusalem Cross, a circular shape, a doughnut shape, a rectangular shape, a square shape, and a potent cross shape.
15. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 12, wherein said selective element comprises a plurality of at least partially conductive layers that are adapted to control harmonic modes.

16. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 12, wherein said selective element comprises a periodic structure of conductive elements.
17. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 16, wherein said periodic structure of conductive elements are located on a dielectric substrate.
18. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 16, wherein said conductive elements have a shape selected from a Jerusalem Cross, a circular shape, a doughnut shape, a rectangular shape, a square shape, and a potent cross shape.
19. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic wave property comprises polarization.
20. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 19, wherein said selective element comprises a polarized reflector.
21. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 20, wherein said at least one first antenna feed element is polarized in accordance with a first polarization, said at least one second antenna feed element is polarized in accordance with a second polarization, and said second polarization is orthogonal to said first polarization.
22. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 20, further comprising a polarization rotator located either between said at least one first antenna feed element and said selective element or between said at least one second antenna feed element and said selective element.
23. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 22, wherein said polarization rotator is located either between said at least one first antenna feed element and said first portion of said electromagnetic lens or said at least one second antenna feed element and said second portion of said electromagnetic lens.
24. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 22, wherein said polarization rotator is incorporated in either said first portion of said electromagnetic lens or said second portion of said electromagnetic lens.

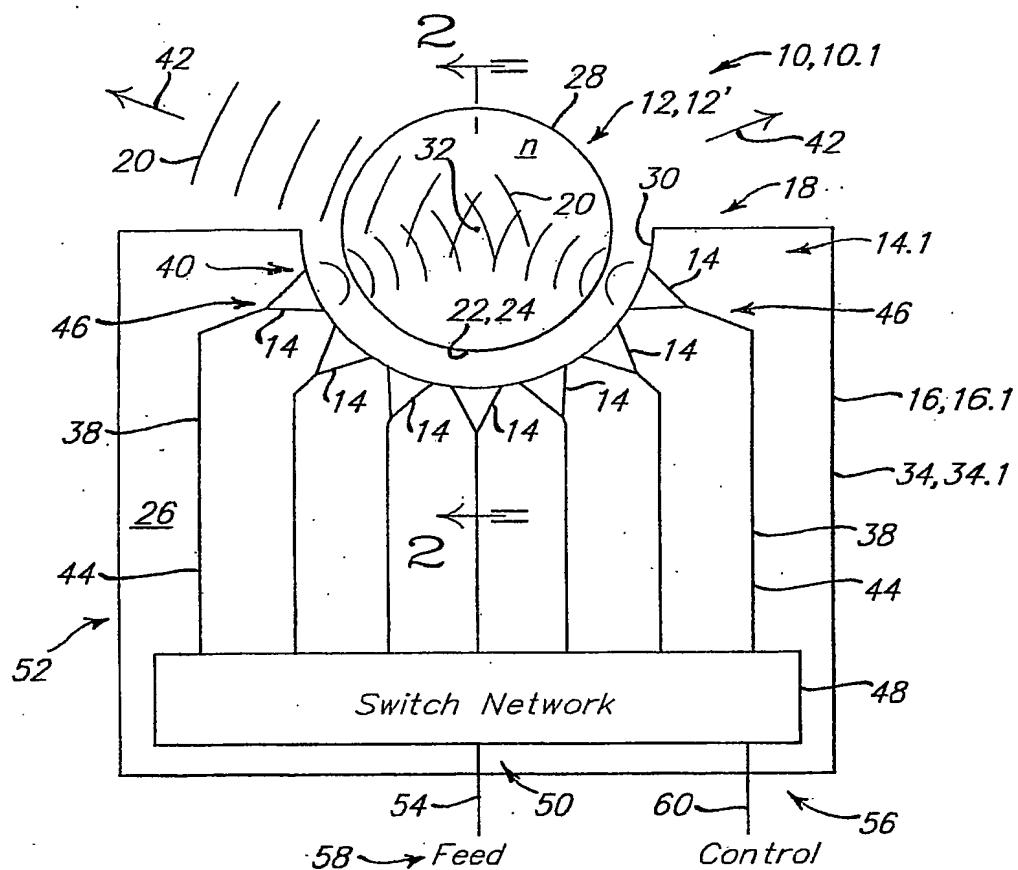
25. A method of transmitting or receiving electromagnetic waves, comprising:

- a. transmitting or receiving a first electromagnetic wave along a first direction through an first portion of an electromagnetic lens;
- b. transmitting or receiving a second electromagnetic wave through a second portion of said electromagnetic lens; and
- c. reflecting a substantial portion of said second electromagnetic wave from a selective element in a region between said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens, wherein the operations of transmitting or receiving a second electromagnetic wave through a second portion of said electromagnetic lens and reflecting said second electromagnetic wave from said selective element in said region between said first and second portions of said electromagnetic lens are adapted so that both said first and second electromagnetic waves propagate along a similar median direction within said second portion of said electromagnetic lens.

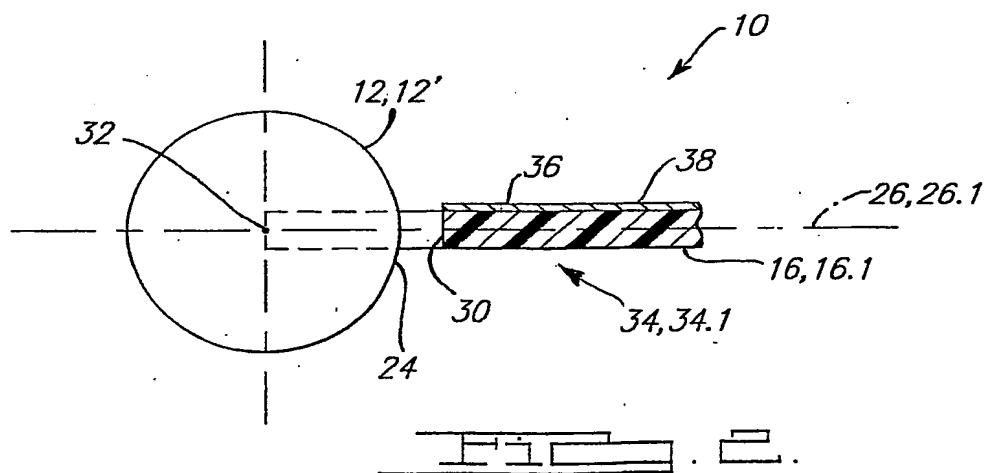
26. A method of transmitting or receiving electromagnetic waves as recited in claim 25, wherein a carrier frequency of said first electromagnetic wave is different from a carrier frequency of said second electromagnetic wave, and the operation of reflecting said second electromagnetic wave is responsive to a carrier frequency of said second electromagnetic wave.

27. A method of transmitting or receiving electromagnetic waves as recited in claim 25, wherein a polarization of said first electromagnetic wave is different from a polarization of said second electromagnetic wave, and the operation of reflecting said second electromagnetic wave is responsive to a polarization of said second electromagnetic wave.

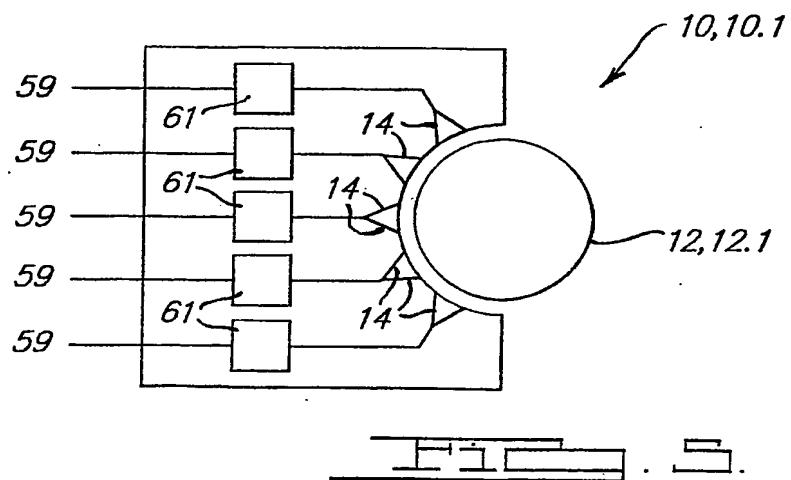
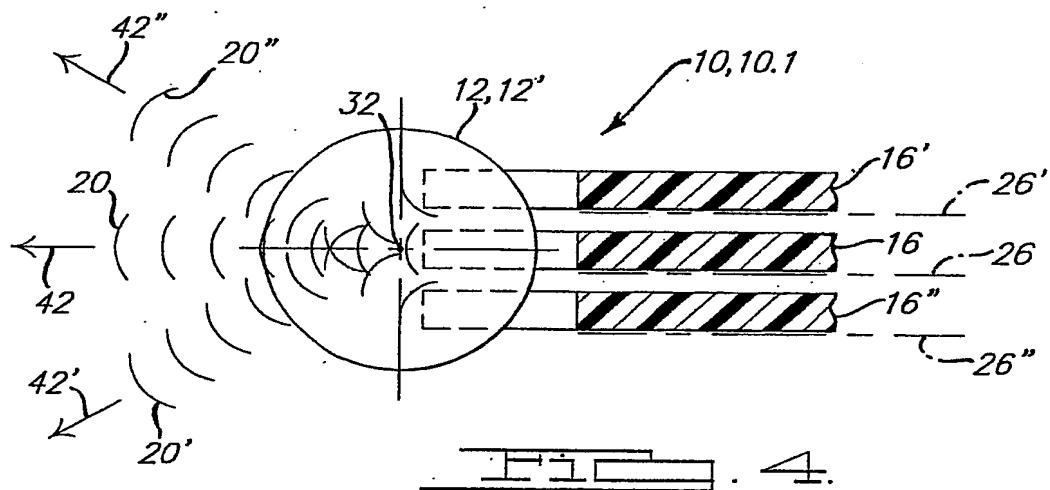
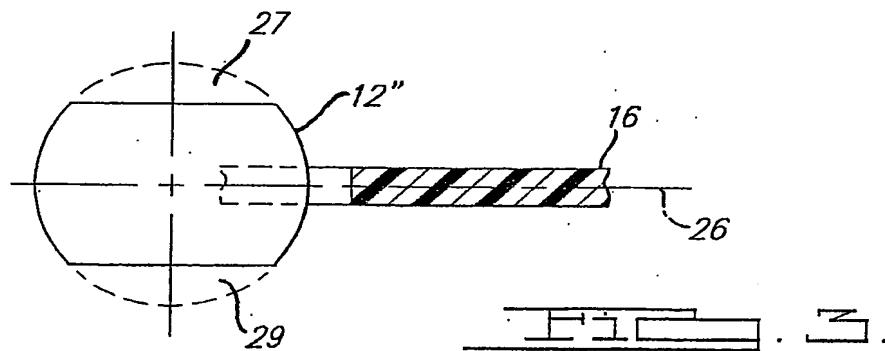
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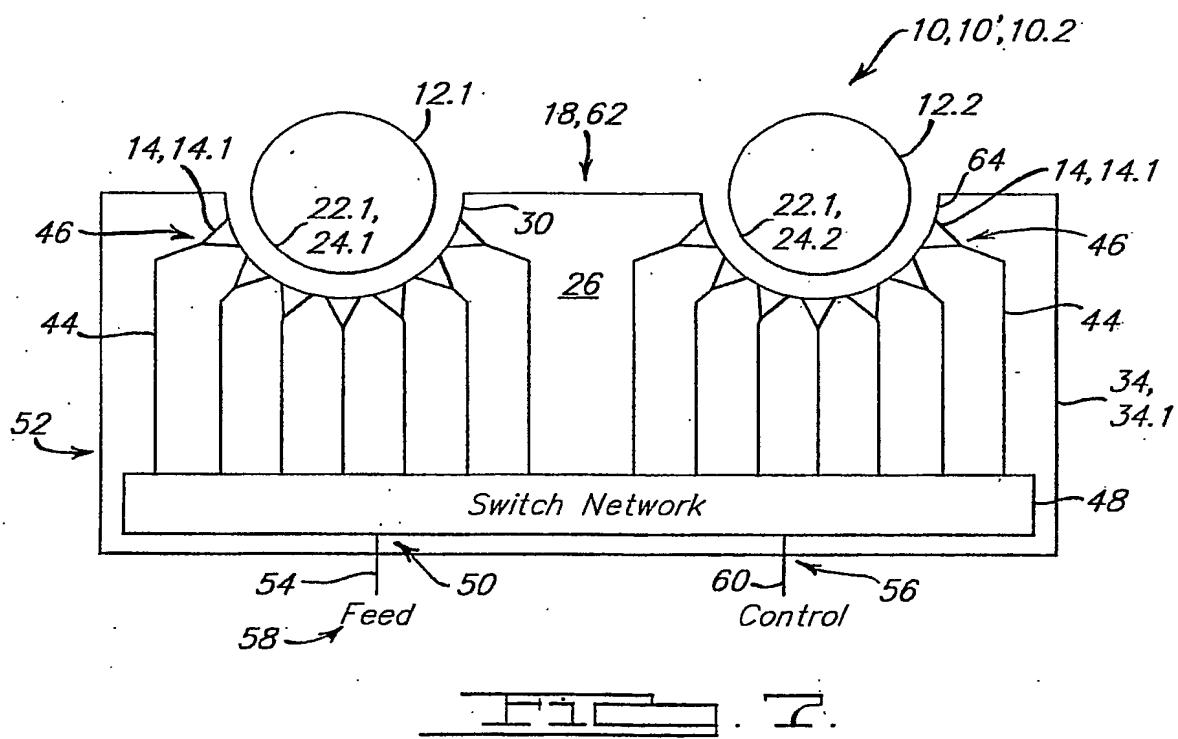
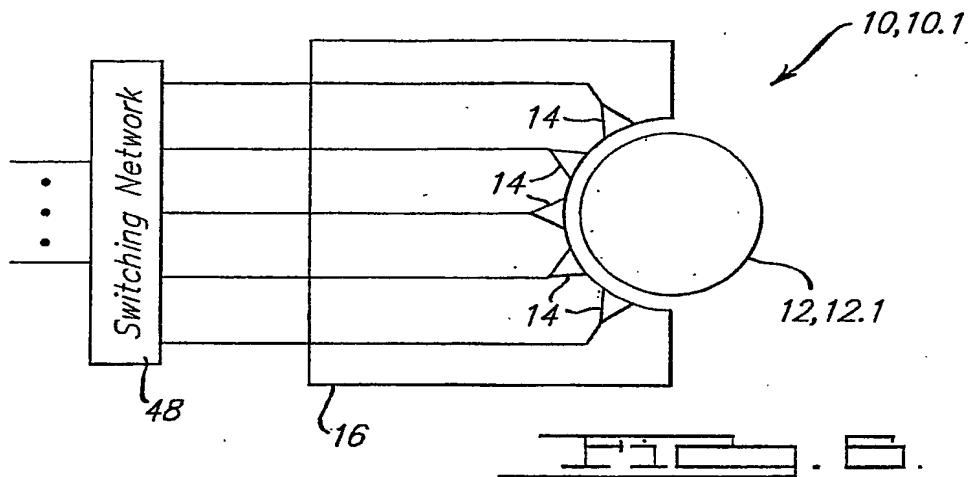
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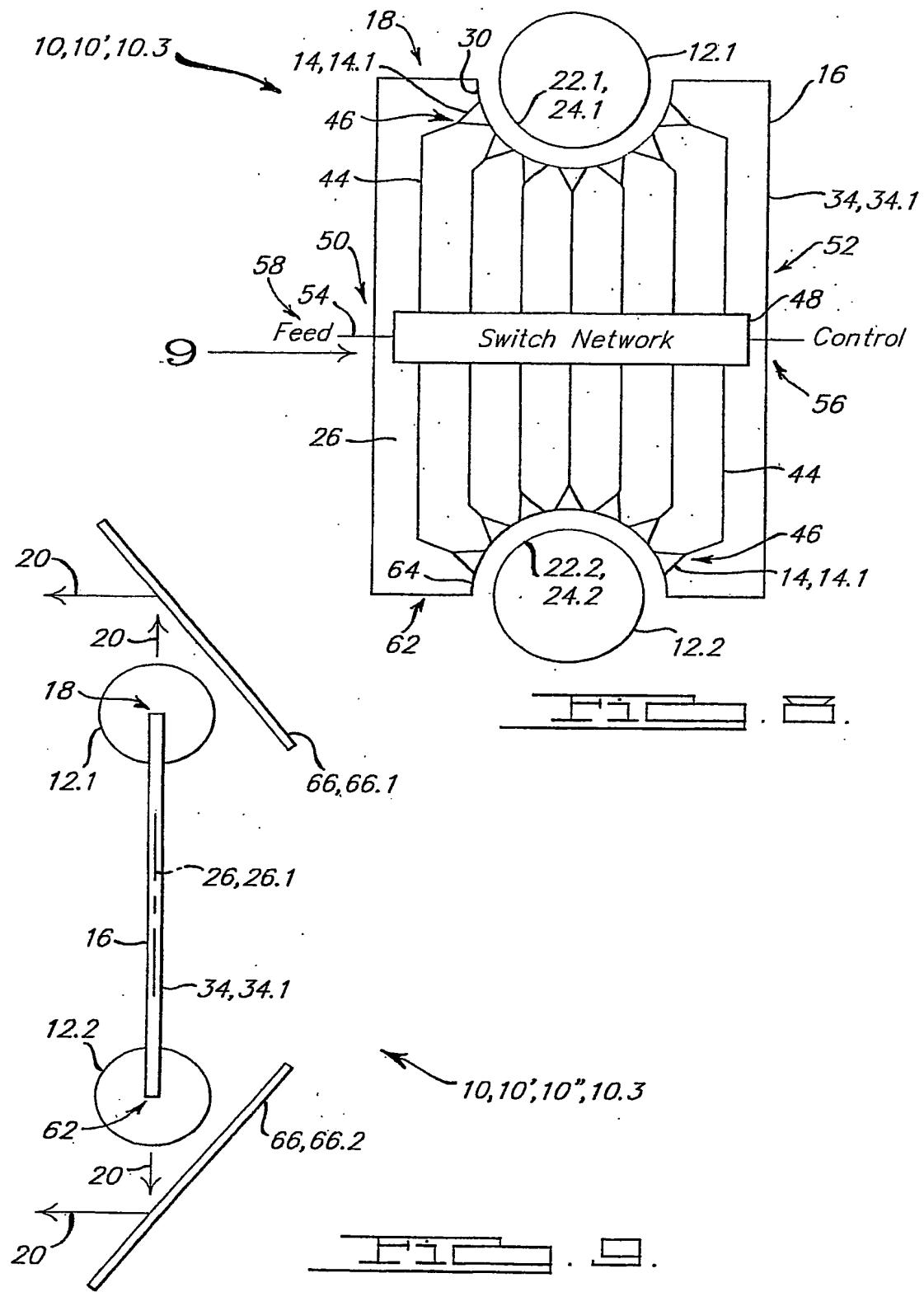
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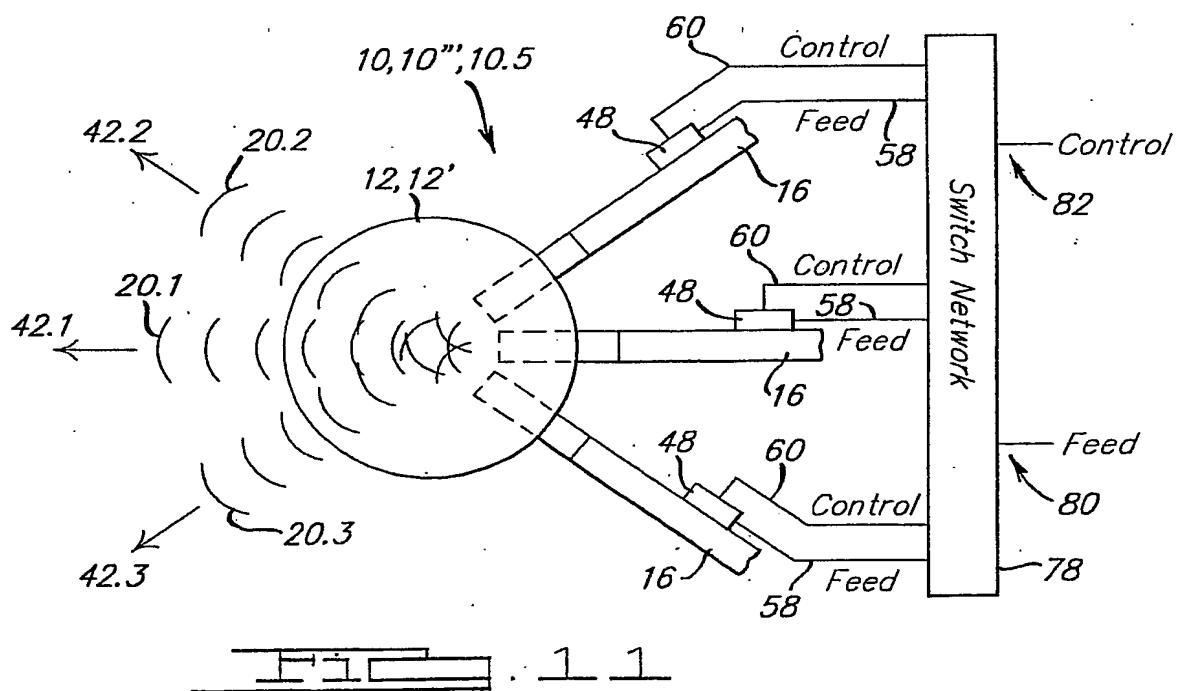
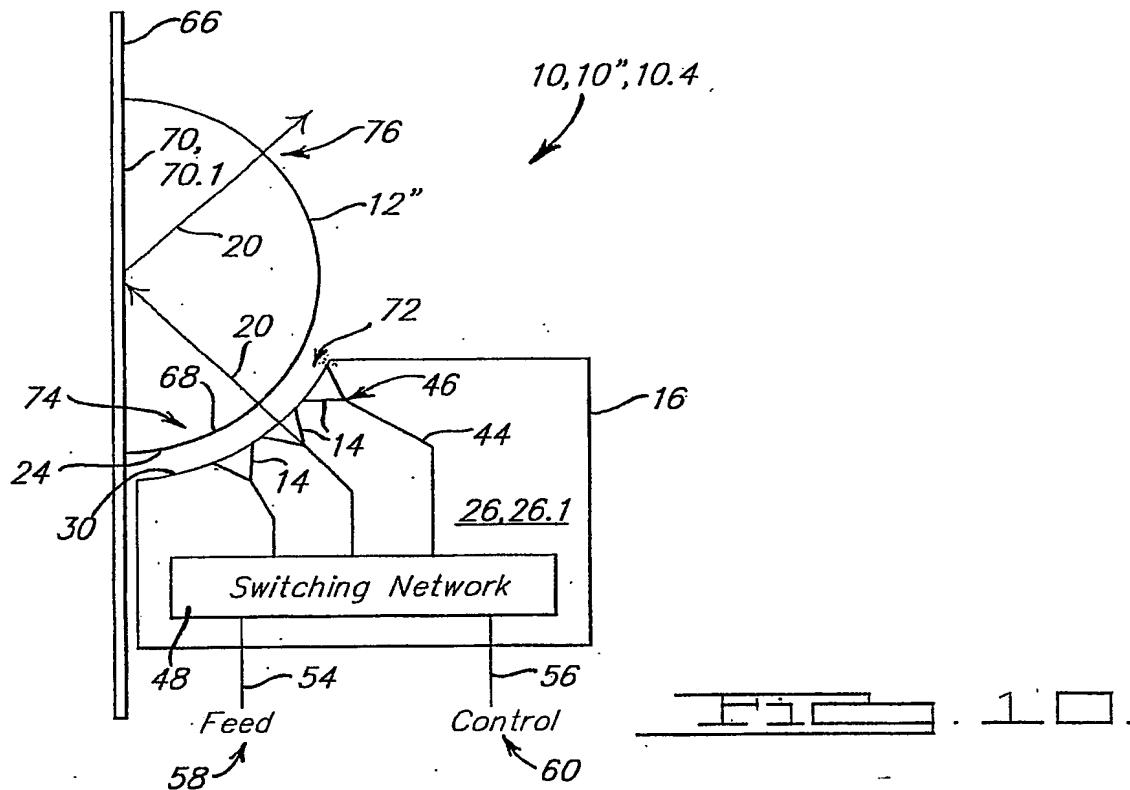
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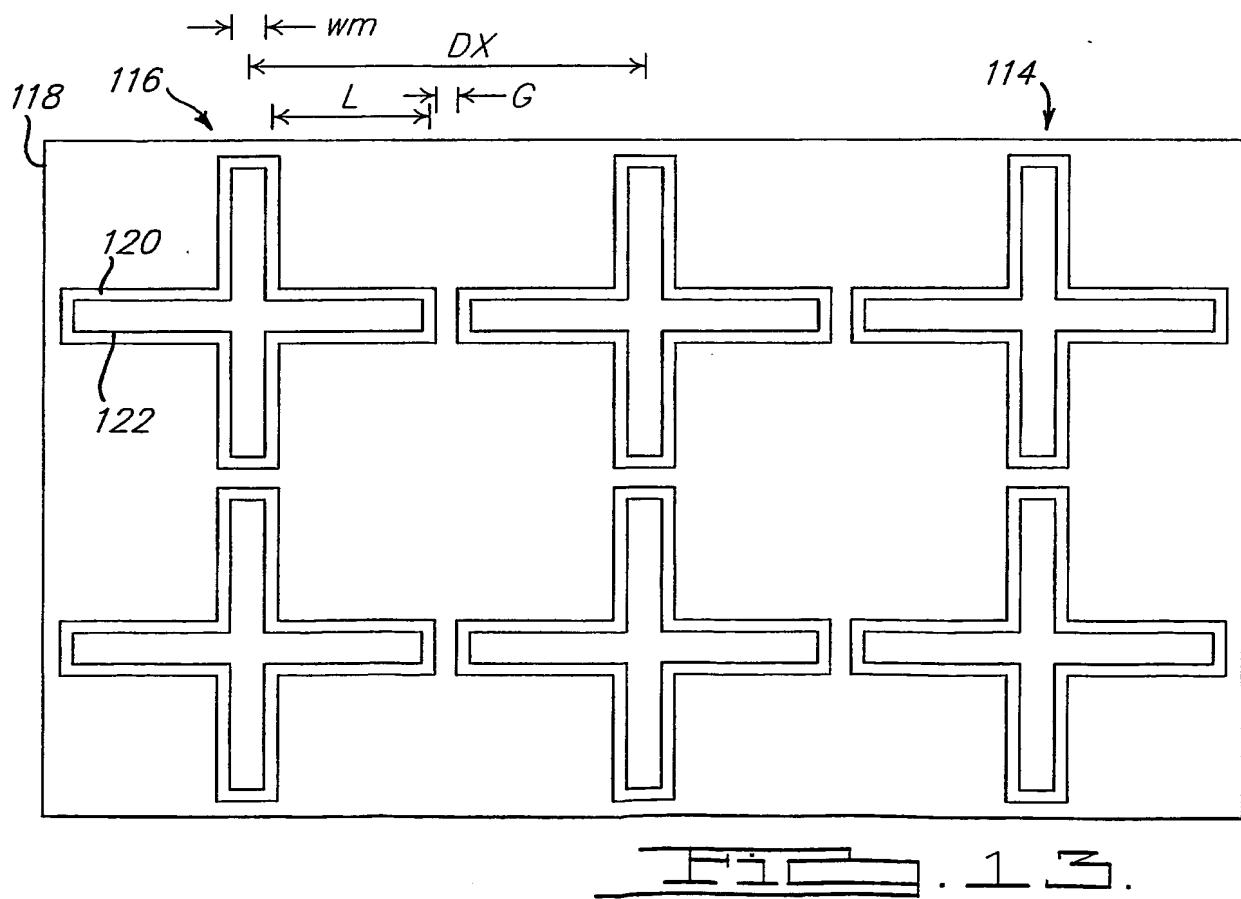
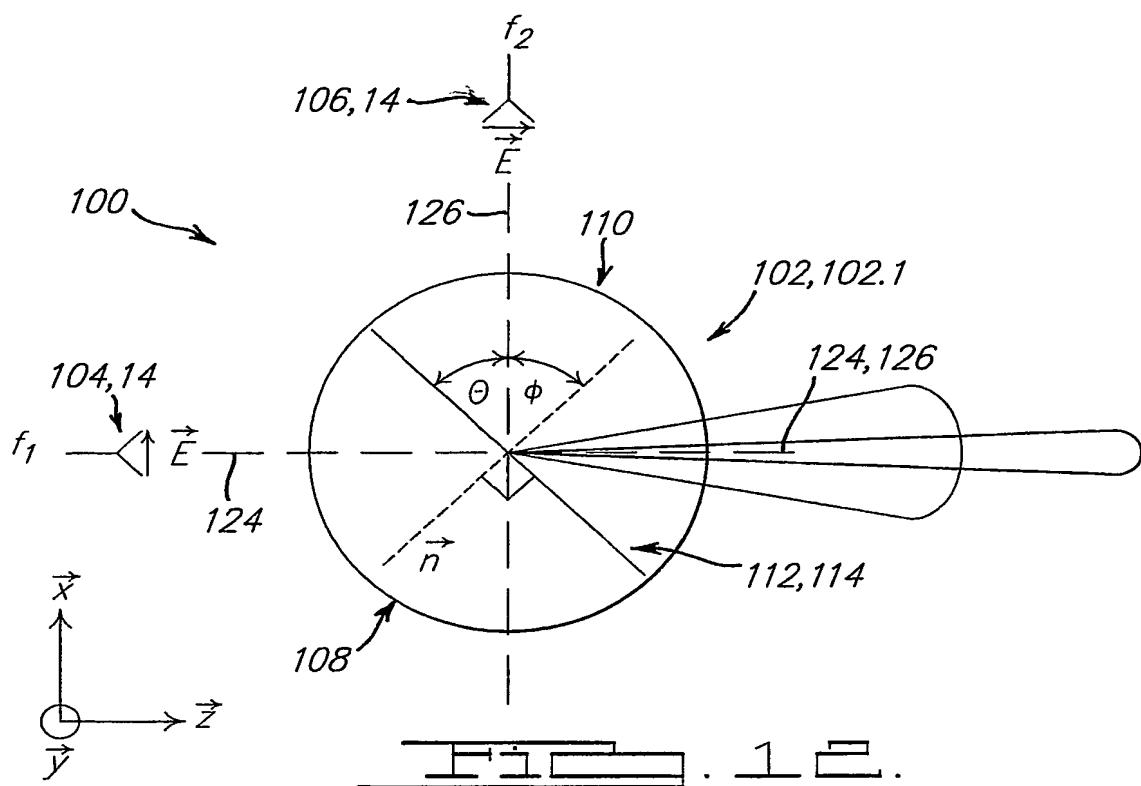
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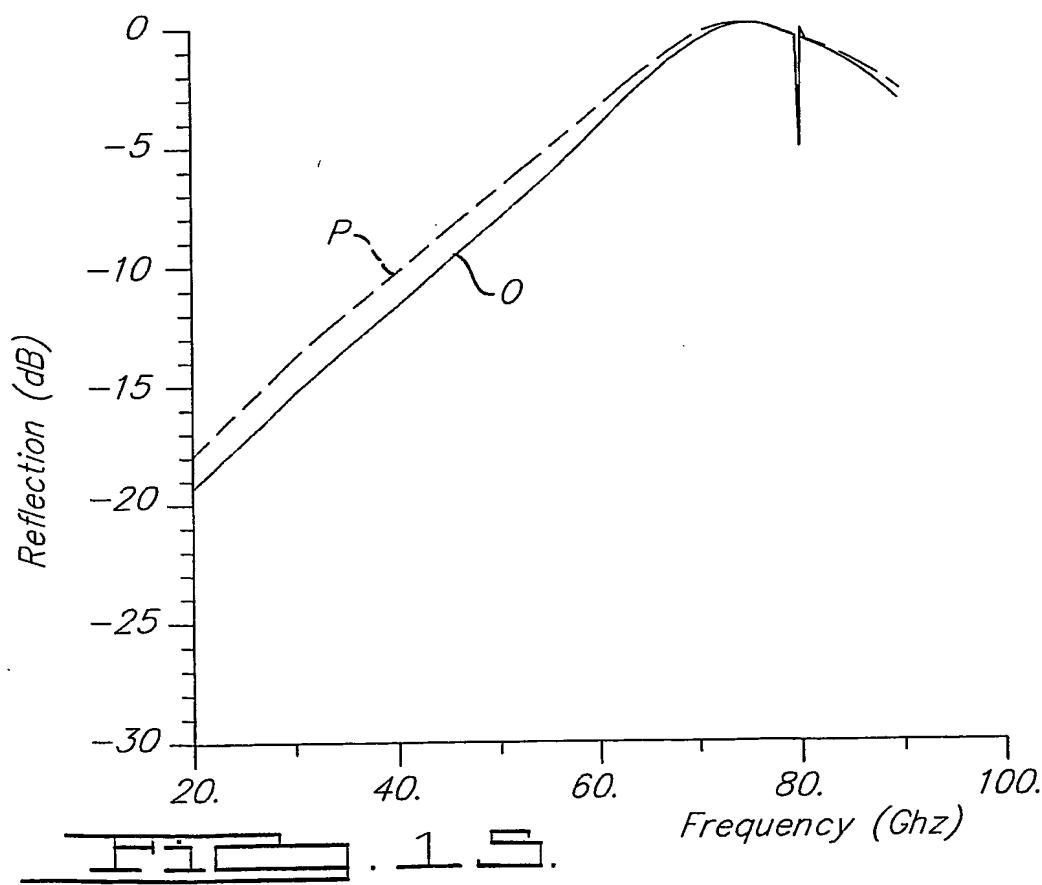
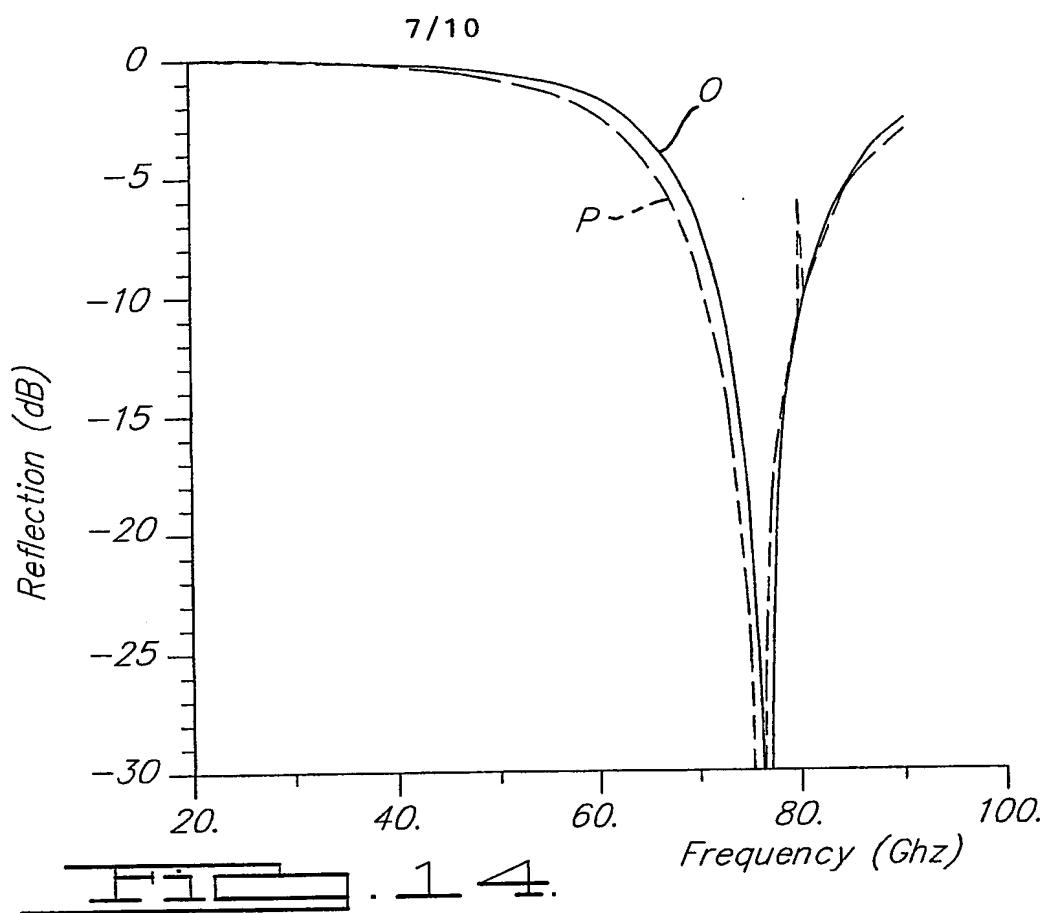


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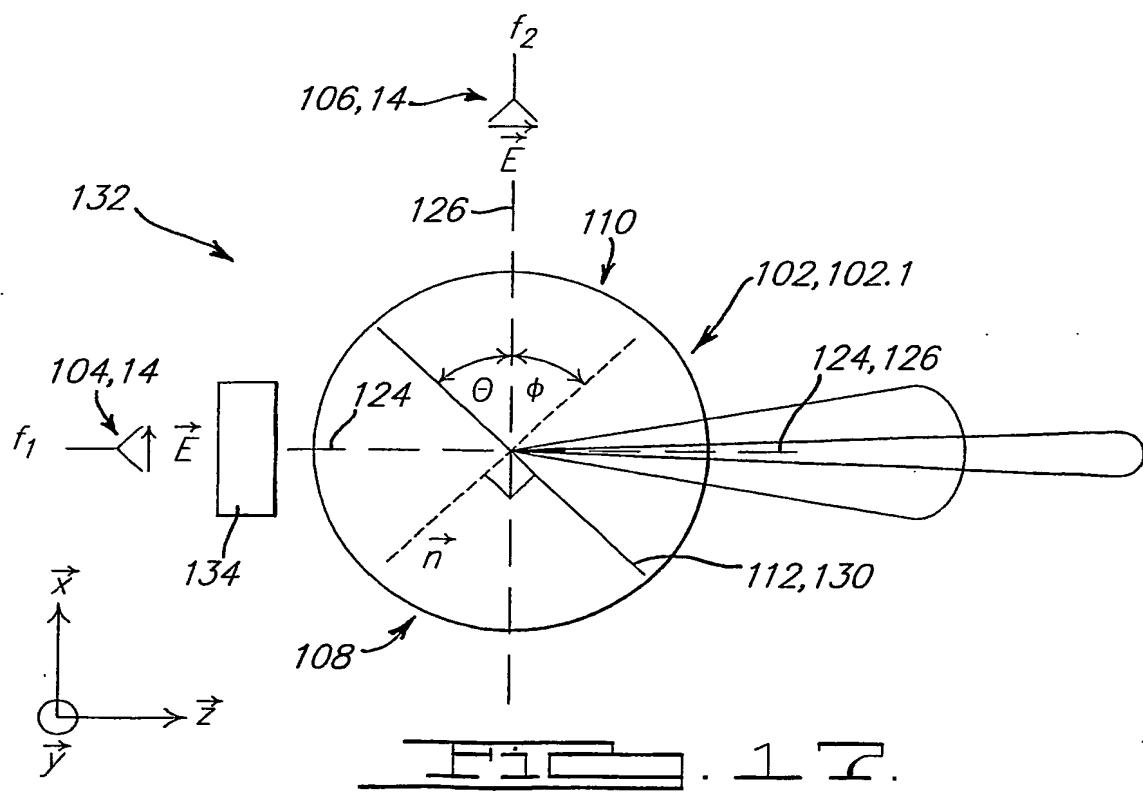
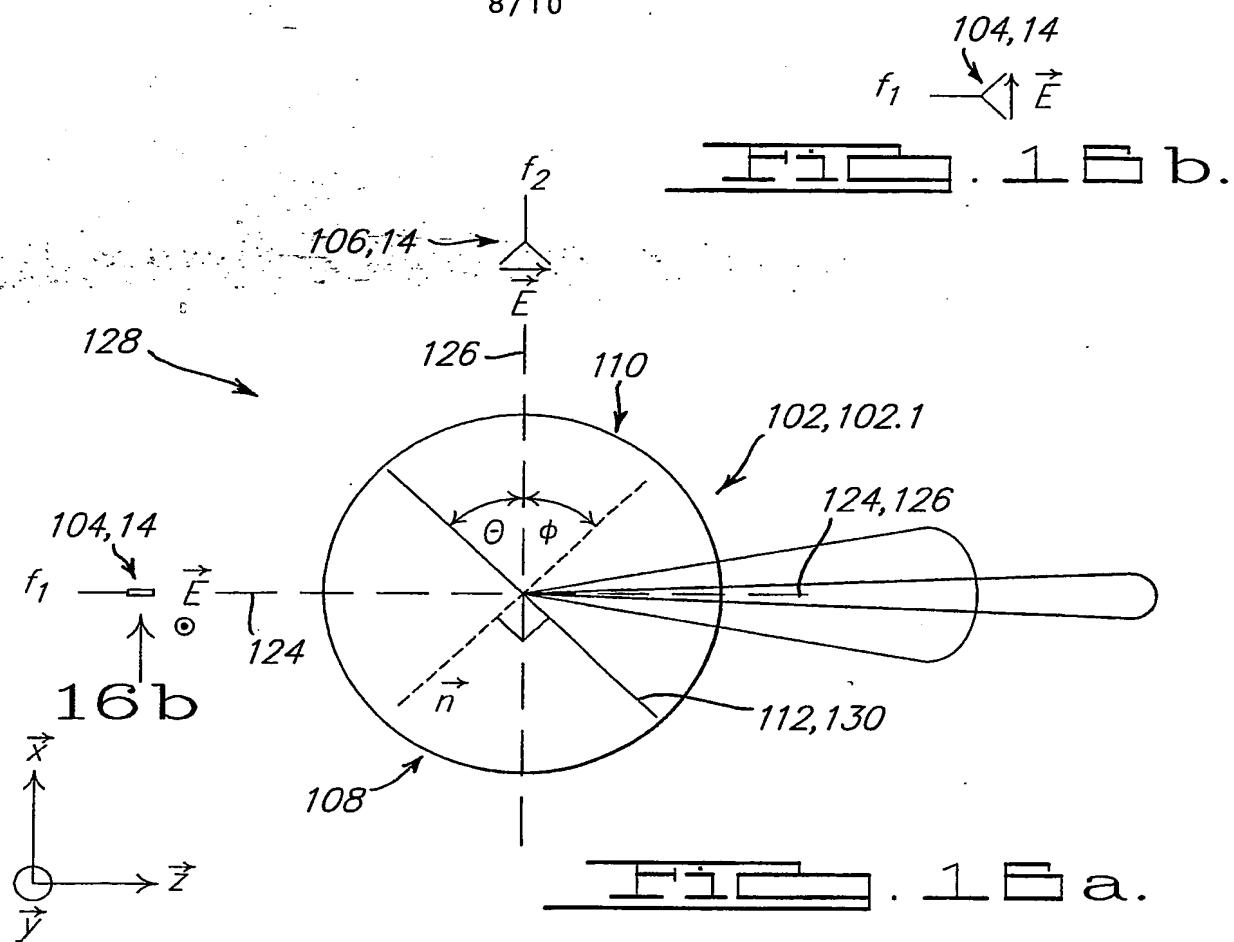


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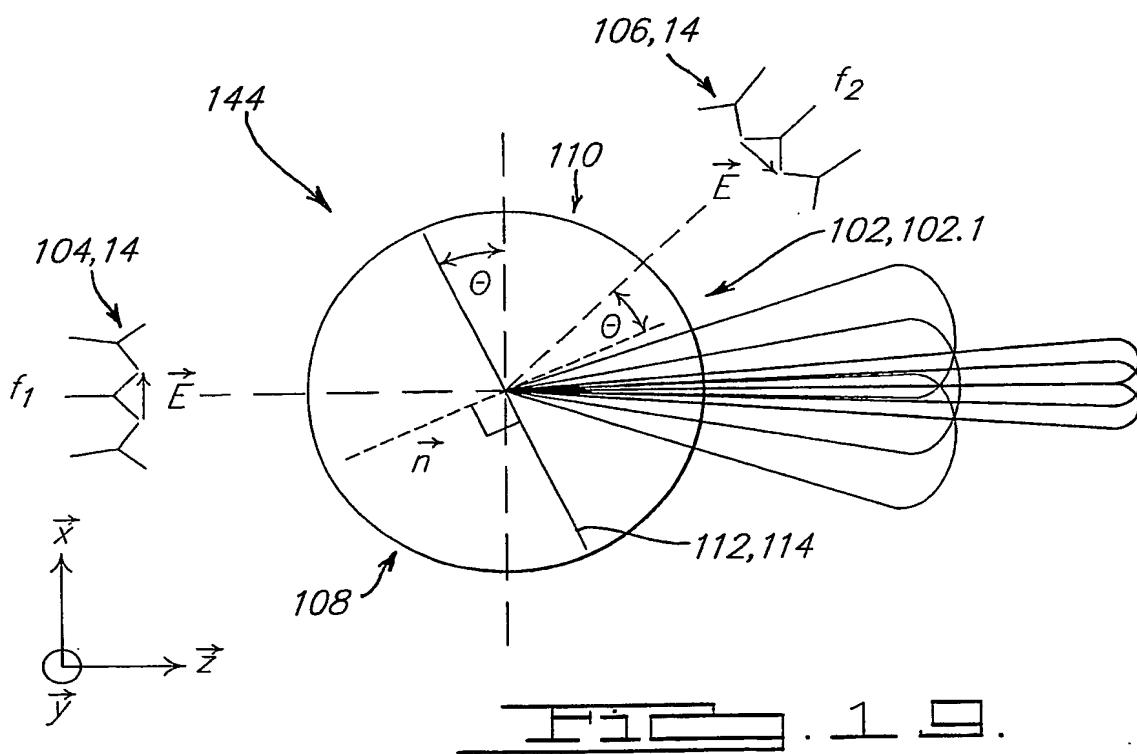
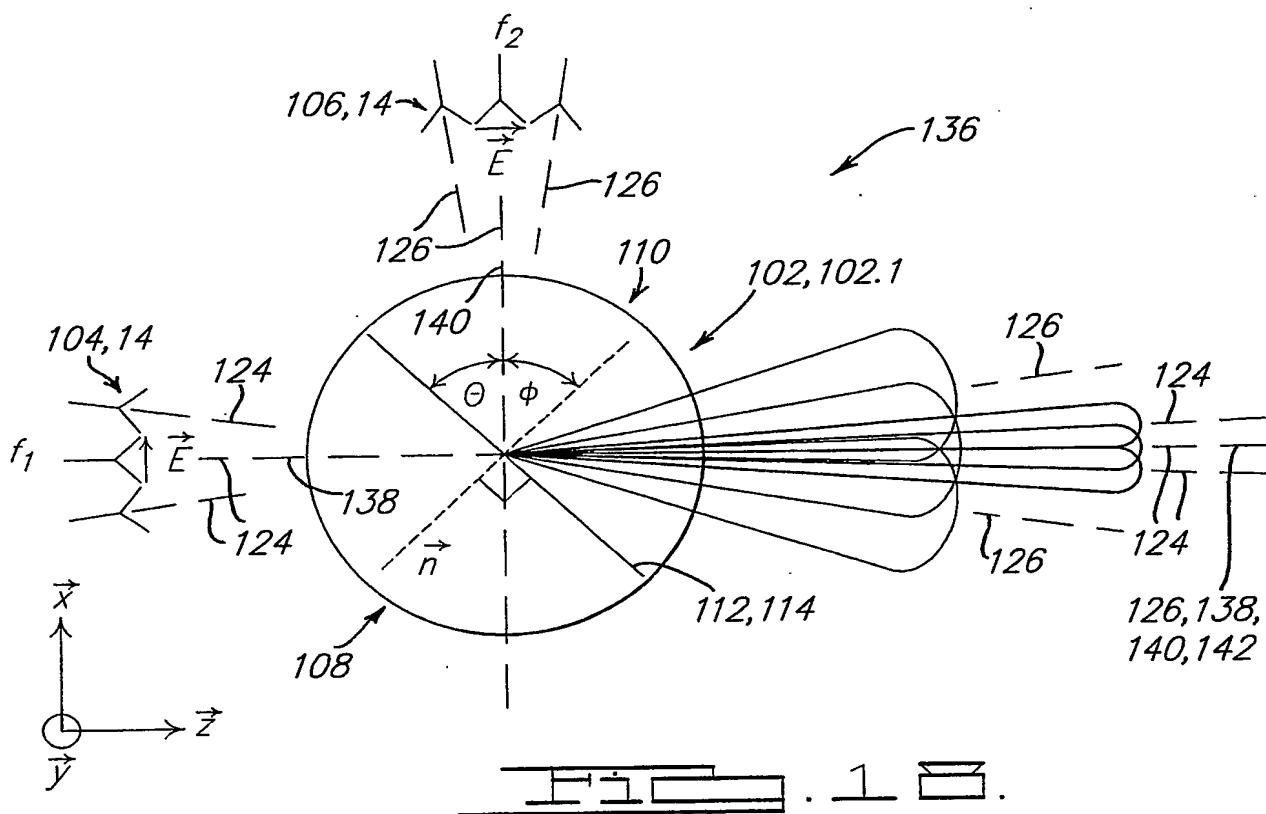


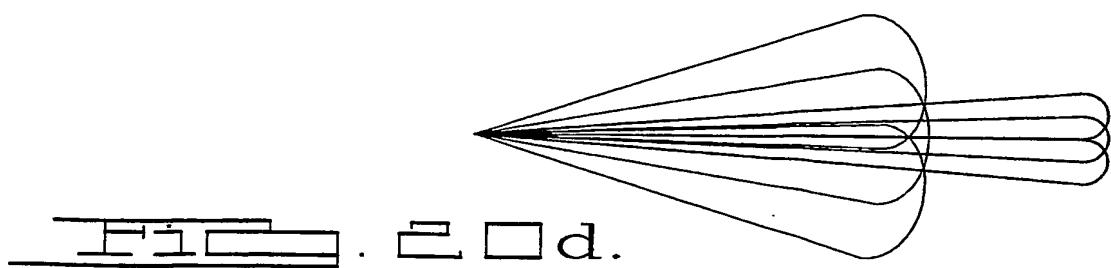
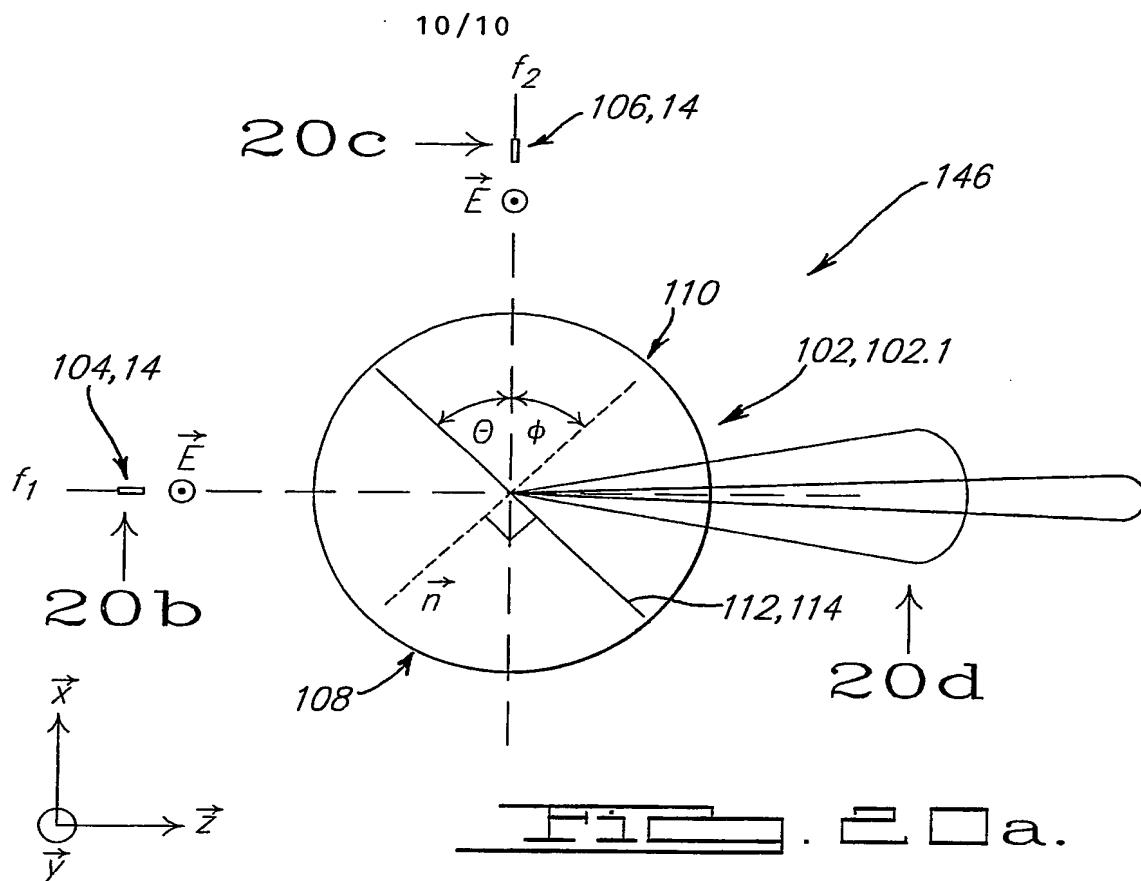


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/22944

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 343/911L, 911R, 909, 753

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 343/911L, 911R, 909, 753

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,972,043 A (LOCUS) 27 July 1976, see entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,745,082 A (ALDER) 28 April 1998, see entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,828,344 A (ALDER et al.) 27 October 1998, see entire document.	1-27
A	US 6,424,319 B2 (EBLING et al.) 23 July 2002, see entire document.	1-27

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
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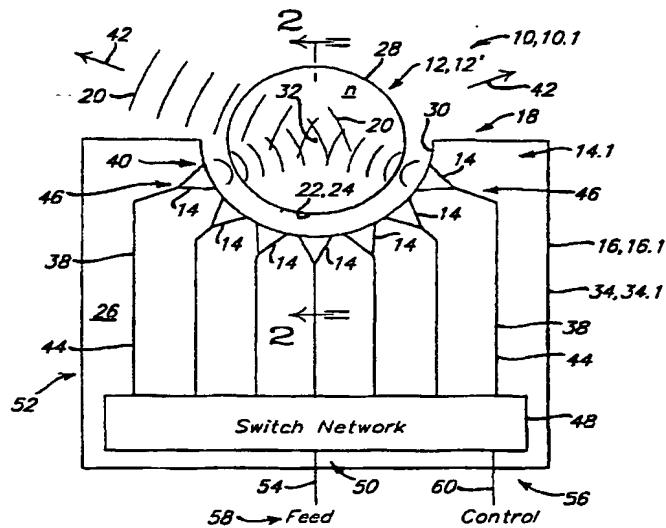
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(71) Applicant: **AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS LABORATORY, INC. [US/US]; Suite B-12, 27200 Haggerty Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48331 (US).**

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **MULTI-BEAM ANTENNA**



(57) Abstract: At least one electromagnetic lens (12) having a first contour (24) is disposed proximate to a dielectric substrate (16) having a first edge (18) having a second contour (30). A plurality of antenna feed elements (14), for example, end-fire antennas (14.1), are disposed on the dielectric substrate (16) along the second contour (30). A signal (58) applied to a corporate feed port (54) is switched to the antenna feed elements (14) by a switching network (48), wherein each antenna feed element (14) launches an electromagnetic wave that is diffracted by the at least one electromagnetic lens (12) so as to form an associated beam of electromagnetic energy (20). Different antenna feed elements (14) generate different beams of electromagnetic energy (20) in different directions (42). A pair of electromagnetic lenses (12.1, 12.2) with associated antenna feed elements (14) at different edge locations (18, 62) on the dielectric substrate (16) provide for bi-static operation. A reflector (62) may be used to redirect the beams of electromagnetic energy (20).

WO 01/37374 A1

MULTI-BEAM ANTENNA

TECHNICAL ART

The instant invention generally relates to a multi-beam antenna comprising an electromagnetic lens and a plurality of antenna feed elements.

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Known waveguide based antennas, while relatively efficient, are bulky and relatively expensive to manufacture. Known phased array antennas are relatively compact but are relatively inefficient. Known focal plane antennas are compact but offer a comparatively narrow field of view.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A multi-beam antenna comprises at least one electromagnetic lens, a dielectric substrate proximate thereto, and a plurality of antenna feed elements on the dielectric substrate. The at least one electromagnetic lens comprises a first side having a first contour at an intersection thereof with a reference surface. The dielectric substrate comprises a 15 first edge having a second contour that is proximate to the first contour, wherein the first edge of the dielectric substrate is located on the reference surface and is proximate to the first side of one of the at least one electromagnetic lens. The plurality of antenna feed elements -- for example, end-fire antennas -- are located on the dielectric substrate proximate to and along the second contour of the first edge. The antenna feed elements are 20 operatively coupled to associated feed signals, which may be multiplexed through a switching network to a corporate antenna feed port. The multi-beam antenna may further comprise at least one reflector, wherein the at least one electromagnetic lens is located between the dielectric substrate and the at least one reflector, and the at least one reflector is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy generated by at least one of the plurality of 25 antenna feed elements and propagated through the at least one electromagnetic lens.

These and other objects, features, and advantages of the instant invention will be more fully understood after reading the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 illustrates a top view of a first embodiment of a multi-beam antenna comprising an electromagnetic lens;

5 **FIG. 2** illustrates a side cross-section of the embodiment of **Fig. 1**;

FIG. 3 illustrates a side cross-section of the embodiment of **Fig. 1** incorporating a truncated electromagnetic lens;

FIG. 4 illustrates a side cross-section of an embodiment illustrating various locations of a dielectric substrate, relative to an electromagnetic lens;

10 **FIG. 5** illustrates an embodiment wherein each antenna feed element is operatively coupled to a separate signal;

FIG. 6 illustrates an embodiment wherein the switching network is separately located from the dielectric substrate;

15 **FIG. 7** illustrates a top view of a second embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising a plurality electromagnetic lenses located proximate to one edge of a dielectric substrate;

FIG. 8 illustrates a top view of a third embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising a plurality electromagnetic lenses located proximate to opposite edges of a dielectric substrate;

20 **FIG. 9** illustrates a side view of the third embodiment illustrated in **Fig. 8**, further comprising a plurality of reflectors;

FIG. 10 illustrates a fourth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna, comprising an electromagnetic lens and a reflector; and

FIG. 11 illustrates a fifth embodiment of a multi-beam antenna.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT(S)

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** comprises at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** and a plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** on a **dielectric substrate 16** proximate to a **first edge 18** thereof, wherein the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** are adapted to radiate a respective plurality of **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** through the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**.

The at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** has a **first side 22** having a **first contour 24** at an intersection of the **first side 22** with a **reference surface 26**, for example, a **plane 26.1**. The at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** acts to diffract the electromagnetic wave from the respective **antenna feed elements 14**, wherein different **antenna feed elements 14** at different locations and in different directions relative to the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** generate different associated **beams of electromagnetic energy 20**. The at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** has a **refractive index n** different from free space, for example, a **refractive index n** greater than one (1). For example, the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** may be constructed of a material such as Rexolite™, Teflon™, polyethylene, or polystyrene; or a plurality of different materials having different refractive indices, for example as in a Luneburg lens. In accordance with known principles of diffraction, the shape and size of the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**, the **refractive index n** thereof, and the relative position of the **antenna feed elements 14** to the **electromagnetic lens 12** are adapted in accordance with the radiation patterns of the **antenna feed elements 14** to provide a desired pattern of radiation of the respective **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** exiting the **second side 28** of the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**. Whereas the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** is illustrated as a **spherical lens 12'** in Figs. 1 and 2, the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12** is not limited to any one particular design, and may, for example, comprise either a spherical lens, a Luneburg lens, a spherical shell lens, a hemispherical lens, an at least partially spherical lens, an at least partially spherical shell lens, a cylindrical lens, or a rotational lens. Moreover, one or more portions of the **electromagnetic lens 12** may be truncated for improved packaging, without significantly impacting the performance of the associated **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1**. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates an at least partially spherical

electromagnetic lens 12” with opposing first 27 and second 29 portions removed therefrom.

The first edge 18 of the dielectric substrate 16 comprises a second contour 30 that is proximate to the first contour 24. The first edge 18 of the dielectric substrate 16 is 5 located on the reference surface 26, and is positioned proximate to the first side 22 of one of the at least one electromagnetic lens 12. The dielectric substrate 16 is located relative to the electromagnetic lens 12 so as to provide for the diffraction by the at least one electromagnetic lens 12 necessary to form the beams of electromagnetic energy 20. For the example of a multi-beam antenna 10 comprising a planar dielectric substrate 16 10 located on reference surface 26 comprising a plane 26.1, in combination with an electromagnetic lens 12 having a center 32, for example, a spherical lens 12'; the plane 26.1 may be located substantially close to the center 32 of the electromagnetic lens 12 so as to provide for diffraction by at least a portion of the electromagnetic lens 12. Referring to Fig. 4, the dielectric substrate 16 may also be displaced relative to the center 32 of the 15 electromagnetic lens 12, for example on one or the other side of the center 32 as illustrated by dielectric substrates 16' and 16'', which are located on respective reference surfaces 26' and 26''.

The dielectric substrate 16 is, for example, a material with low loss at an operating frequency, for example, DuroidTM, a TeflonTM containing material, a ceramic material, or a 20 composite material such as an epoxy/fiberglass composite. Moreover, in one embodiment, the dielectric substrate 16 comprises a dielectric 16.1 of a circuit board 34, for example, a printed circuit board 34.1 comprising at least one conductive layer 36 adhered to dielectric substrate 16, from which the antenna feed elements 14 and other associated 25 circuit traces 38 are formed, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, deposition, bonding or lamination.

The plurality of antenna feed elements 14 are located on the dielectric substrate 16 along the second contour 30 of the first edge 18, wherein each antenna feed element 14 30 comprises a least one conductor 40 operatively connected to the dielectric substrate 16. For example, at least one of the antenna feed elements 14 comprises an end-fire antenna element 14.1 adapted to launch or receive electromagnetic waves in a direction 42

substantially towards or from the **first side 22** of the at least one **electromagnetic lens 12**, wherein different **end-fire antenna elements 14.1** are located at different locations along the **second contour 30** so as to launch or receive respective electromagnetic waves in different **directions 42**. An **end-fire antenna element 14.1** may, for example, comprise 5 either a Yagi-Uda antenna, a coplanar horn antenna (also known as a tapered slot antenna), a Vivaldi antenna, a tapered dielectric rod, a slot antenna, a dipole antenna, or a helical antenna, each of which is capable of being formed on the **dielectric substrate 16**, for example, from a **printed circuit board 34.1**, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, 10 deposition, bonding or lamination. Moreover, the **antenna feed elements 14** may be used for transmitting, receiving or both.

Referring to **Fig. 4**, the **direction 42** of the one or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** through the **electromagnetic lens 12, 12'** is responsive to the relative location of the **dielectric substrate 16, 16' or 16''** and the associated **reference surface 26, 26' or 26''** relative to the **center 32** of the **electromagnetic lens 12**. For example, with the **dielectric substrate 16** substantially aligned with the **center 32**, the **directions 42** of the one or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** are nominally aligned with the **reference surface 26**. Alternately, with the **dielectric substrate 16'** above the **center 32** of the **electromagnetic lens 12, 12'**, the resulting one or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20'** propagate in **directions 42'** below the **center 32**. Similarly, with the **dielectric substrate 16''** below the **center 32** of the **electromagnetic lens 12, 12'**, the resulting one or more **beams of electromagnetic energy 20''** propagate in **directions 42''** above the **center 32**.

The **multi-beam antenna 10** may further comprise at least one **transmission line 44** 25 on the **dielectric substrate 16** operatively connected to a **feed port 46** of one of the plurality of **antenna feed elements 14** for feeding a signal to the associated **antenna feed element 14**. For example, the at least one **transmission line 44** may comprise either a stripline, a microstrip line, an inverted microstrip line, a slotline, an image line, an insulated image line, a tapped image line, a coplanar stripline, or a coplanar waveguide line 30 formed on the **dielectric substrate 16**, for example, from a **printed circuit board 34.1**, for example, by subtractive technology, for example, chemical or ion etching, or stamping; or additive techniques, for example, deposition, bonding or lamination.

The multi-beam antenna 10 may further comprise a switching network 48 having at least one input 50 and a plurality of outputs 52, wherein the at least one input 50 is operatively connected -- for example, via at least one above described transmission line 44 -- to a corporate antenna feed port 54, and each output 52 of the plurality of outputs 52 is connected -- for example, via at least one above described transmission line 44 -- to a respective feed port 46 of a different antenna feed element 14 of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14. The switching network 48 further comprises at least one control port 56 for controlling which outputs 52 are connected to the at least one input 50 at a given time. The switching network 48 may, for example, comprise either a plurality of micro-mechanical switches, PIN diode switches, transistor switches, or a combination thereof, and may, for example, be operatively connected to the dielectric substrate 16, for example, by surface mount to an associated conductive layer 36 of a printed circuit board 34.1.

In operation, a feed signal 58 applied to the corporate antenna feed port 54 is either blocked -- for example, by an open circuit, by reflection or by absorption, -- or switched to the associated feed port 46 of one or more antenna feed elements 14, via one or more associated transmission lines 44, by the switching network 48, responsive to a control signal 60 applied to the control port 56. It should be understood that the feed signal 58 may either comprise a single signal common to each antenna feed element 14, or a plurality of signals associated with different antenna feed elements 14. Each antenna feed element 14 to which the feed signal 58 is applied launches an associated electromagnetic wave into the first side 22 of the associated electromagnetic lens 12, which is diffracted thereby to form an associated beam of electromagnetic energy 20. The associated beams of electromagnetic energy 20 launched by different antenna feed elements 14 propagate in different associated directions 42. The various beams of electromagnetic energy 20 may be generated individually at different times so as to provide for a scanned beam of electromagnetic energy 20. Alternately, two or more beams of electromagnetic energy 20 may be generated simultaneously. Moreover, different antenna feed elements 14 may be driven by different frequencies that, for example, are either directly switched to the respective antenna feed elements 14, or switched via an associated switching network 48 having a plurality of inputs 50, at least some of which are each connected to different feed signals 58.

Referring to Fig. 5, the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** may be adapted so that the respective signals are associated with the respective **antenna feed elements 14** in a one-to-one relationship, thereby precluding the need for an associated **switching network 48**. For example, each **antenna feed element 14** can be operatively connected to an associated **signal 59** through an associated **processing element 61**. As one example, with the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** configured as an imaging array, the respective **antenna feed elements 14** are used to receive electromagnetic energy, and the respective **processing elements 61** comprise detectors. As another example, with the **multi-beam antenna 10, 10.1** configured as a communication antenna, the respective **antenna feed elements 14** are used to both transmit and receive electromagnetic energy, and the respective **processing elements 61** comprise transmit/receive modules or transceivers.

Referring to Fig. 6, the **switching network 48**, if used, need not be collocated on a common **dielectric substrate 16**, but can be separately located, as, for example, may be useful for low frequency applications, for example, 1-20 GHz.

Referring to Figs. 7, 8 and 9, in accordance with a second aspect, a **multi-beam antenna 10'** comprises at least a **first 12.1** and a **second 12.2 electromagnetic lens**, each having a **first side 22.1, 22.2** with a corresponding **first contour 24.1, 24.2** at an intersection of the respective **first side 22.1, 22.2** with the **reference surface 26**. The **dielectric substrate 16** comprises at least a **second edge 62** comprising a **third contour 64**, wherein the **second contour 30** is proximate to the **first contour 24.1** of the **first electromagnetic lens 12.1** and the **third contour 64** is proximate to the **first contour 24.2** of the **second electromagnetic lens 12.2**.

Referring to Fig. 7, in accordance with a second embodiment of the **multi-beam antenna 10.2**, the **second edge 62** is the same as the **first edge 18** and the **second 30 and third 64 contours** are displaced from one another along the **first edge 18** of the **dielectric substrate 16**.

Referring to Fig. 8, in accordance with a third embodiment of the **multi-beam antenna 10.3**, the **second edge 62** is different from the **first edge 18**, and more particularly is opposite to the **first edge 18** of the **dielectric substrate 16**.

Referring to Fig. 9, in accordance with a third aspect, a **multi-beam antenna 10''** comprises at least one **reflector 66**, wherein the **reference surface 26** intersects the at least

one reflector 66 and one of the at least one electromagnetic lens 12 is located between the dielectric substrate 16 and the reflector 66. The at least one reflector 66 is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the at least one electromagnetic lens 12 after being generated by at least one of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14. A third embodiment of the multi-beam antenna 10 comprises at least first 66.1 and second 66.2 reflectors wherein the first electromagnetic lens 12.1 is located between the dielectric substrate 16 and the first reflector 66.1, the second electromagnetic lens 12.2 is located between the dielectric substrate 16 and the second reflector 66.2, the first reflector 66.1 is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the first electromagnetic lens 12.1 after being generated by at least one of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14 on the second contour 30, and the second reflector 66.2 is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through the second electromagnetic lens 12.2 after being generated by at least one of the plurality of antenna feed elements 14 on the third contour 64. For example, the first 66.1 and second 66.2 reflectors may be oriented to direct the beams of electromagnetic energy 20 from each side in a common nominal direction, as illustrated in Fig. 9. Referring to Fig. 9, the multi-beam antenna 10" as illustrated would provide for scanning in a direction normal to the plane of the illustration. If the dielectric substrate 16 were rotated by 90 degrees with respect to the reflectors 66.1, 66.2, about an axis connecting the respective electromagnetic lenses 12.1, 12.1, then the multi-beam antenna 10" would provide for scanning in a direction parallel to the plane of the illustration.

Referring to Fig. 10, in accordance with the third aspect and a fourth embodiment, a multi-beam antenna 10", 10.4 comprises an at least partially spherical electromagnetic lens 12", for example, a hemispherical electromagnetic lens, having a curved surface 68 and a boundary 70, for example a flat boundary 70.1. The multi-beam antenna 10", 10.4 further comprises a reflector 66 proximate to the boundary 70, and a plurality of antenna feed elements 14 on a dielectric substrate 16 proximate to a contoured edge 72 thereof, wherein each of the antenna feed elements 14 is adapted to radiate a respective plurality of beams of electromagnetic energy 20 into a first sector 74 of the electromagnetic lens 12". The electromagnetic lens 12" has a first contour 24 at an intersection of the first sector 74 with a reference surface 26, for example, a plane 26.1. The contoured edge 72 has a second contour 30 located on the reference surface 26 that

is proximate to the **first contour 24** of the **first sector 74**. The **multi-beam antenna 10''**, **10.4** further comprises a **switching network 48** and a plurality of **transmission lines 44** operatively connected to the **antenna feed elements 14** as described hereinabove for the other embodiments.

5 In operation, at least one **feed signal 58** applied to a **corporate antenna feed port 54** is either blocked, or switched to the associated **feed port 46** of one or more **antenna feed elements 14**, via one or more associated **transmission lines 44**, by the **switching network 48** responsive to a **control signal 60** applied to a **control port 56** of the **switching network 48**. Each **antenna feed element 14** to which the **feed signal 58** is applied 10 launches an associated electromagnetic wave into the **first sector 74** of the associated **electromagnetic lens 12'''**. The electromagnetic wave propagates through -- and is diffracted by -- the **curved surface 68**, and is then reflected by the **reflector 66** proximate to the **boundary 70**, whereafter the reflected electromagnetic wave propagates through the **electromagnetic lens 12'''** and exits -- and is diffracted by -- a **second sector 76** as an 15 associated **beam of electromagnetic energy 20**. With the **reflector 66** substantially normal to the **reference surface 26** -- as illustrated in Fig. 10 -- the different **beams of electromagnetic energy 20** are directed by the associated **antenna feed elements 14** in different directions that are nominally substantially parallel to the **reference surface 26**.

Referring to Fig. 11, in accordance with a fourth aspect and a fifth embodiment, a 20 **multi-beam antenna 10'''**, **10.5** comprises an **electromagnetic lens 12** and plurality of **dielectric substrates 16**, each comprising a set of **antenna feed elements 14** and operating in accordance with the description hereinabove. Each set of **antenna feed elements 14** generates (or is capable of generating) an associated set of **beams of electromagnetic energy 20.1, 20.2 and 20.3**, each having associated directions **42.1, 42.2 and 42.3**, 25 responsive to the associated **feed 58** and **control 60 signals**. The associated **feed 58** and **control 60 signals** are either directly applied to the associated **switch network 48** of the respective sets of **antenna feed elements 14**, or are applied thereto through a **second switch network 78** have associated **feed 80** and **control 82 ports**, each comprising at least one associated signal. Accordingly, the **multi-beam antenna 10'''**, **10.4** provides for 30 transmitting or receiving one or more beams of electromagnetic energy over a three-dimensional space.

The **multi-beam antenna 10** provides for a relatively wide field-of-view, and is suitable for a variety of applications, including but not limited to automotive radar, point-to-point communications systems and point-to-multi-point communication systems, over a wide range of frequencies for which the **antenna feed elements 14** may be designed to radiate, for example, 1 to **200 GHz**. Moreover, the **multi-beam antenna 10** may be configured for either mono-static or bi-static operation.

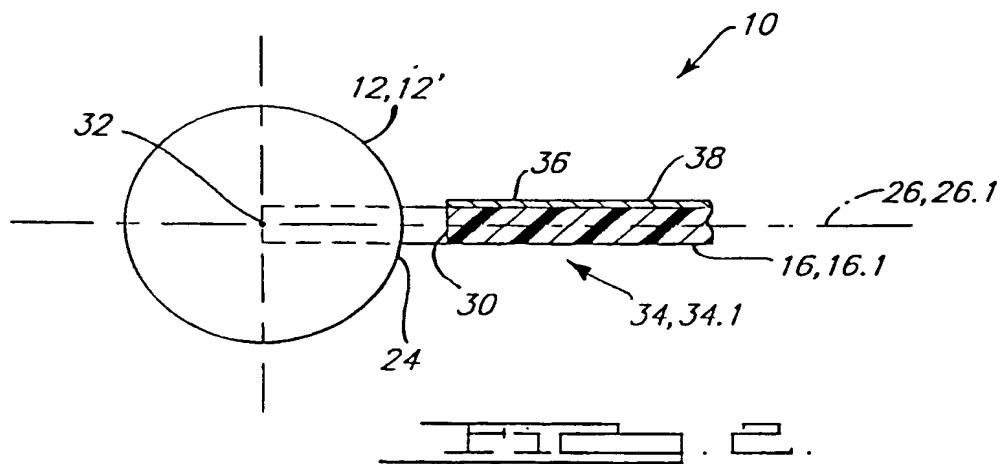
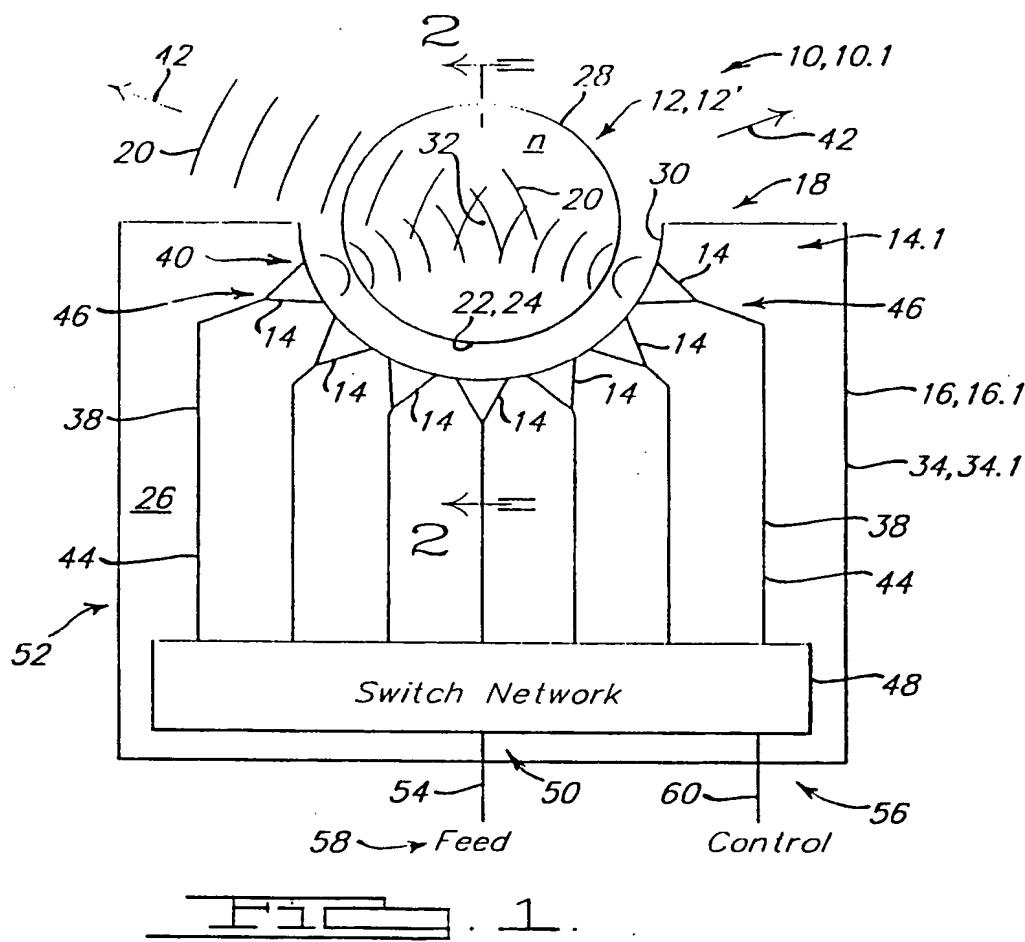
While specific embodiments have been described in detail in the foregoing detailed description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, those with ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and not limiting as to the scope of the invention, which is to be given the full breadth of the appended claims and any and all equivalents thereof.

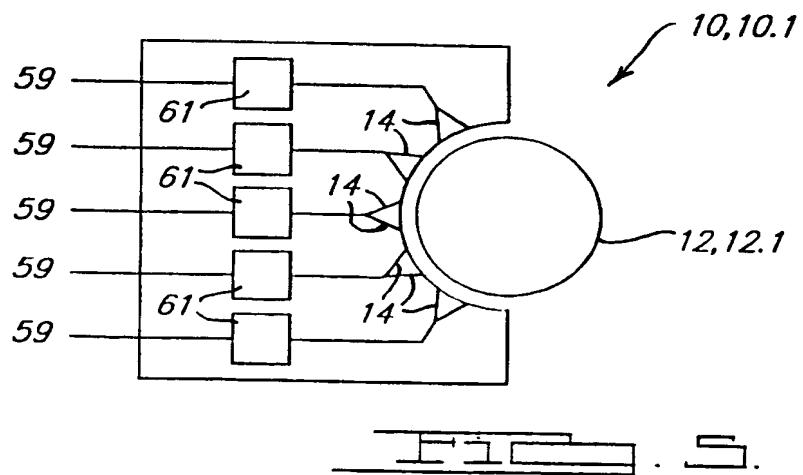
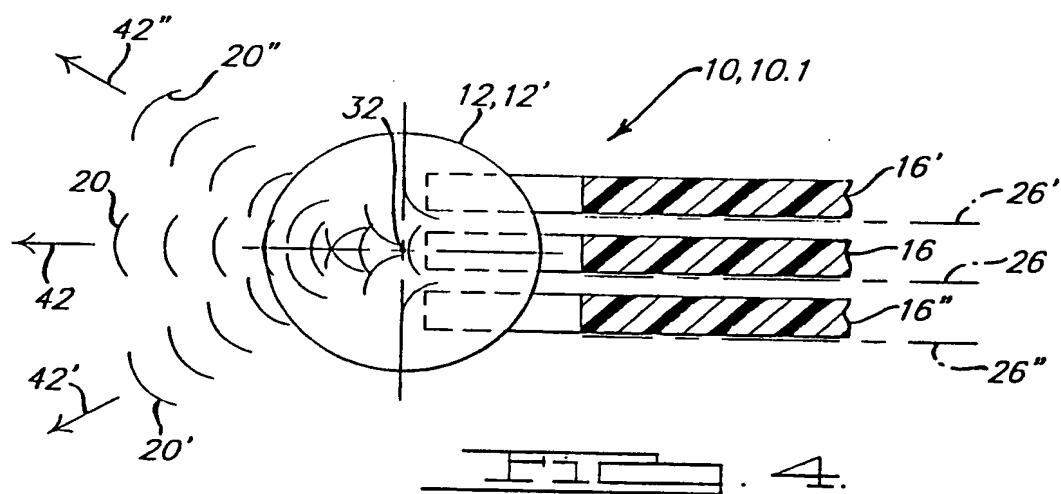
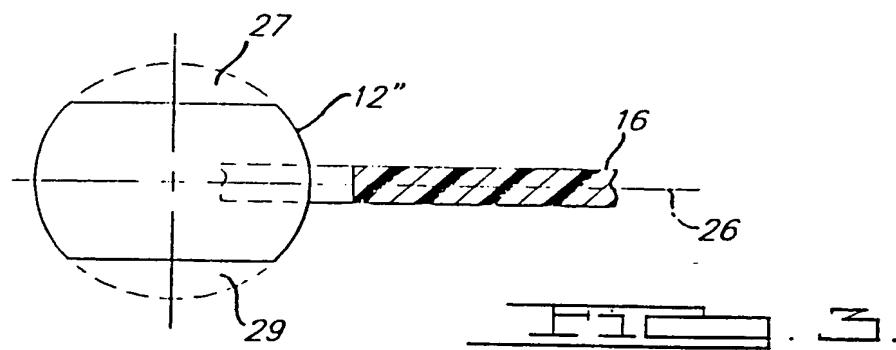
WE CLAIM:

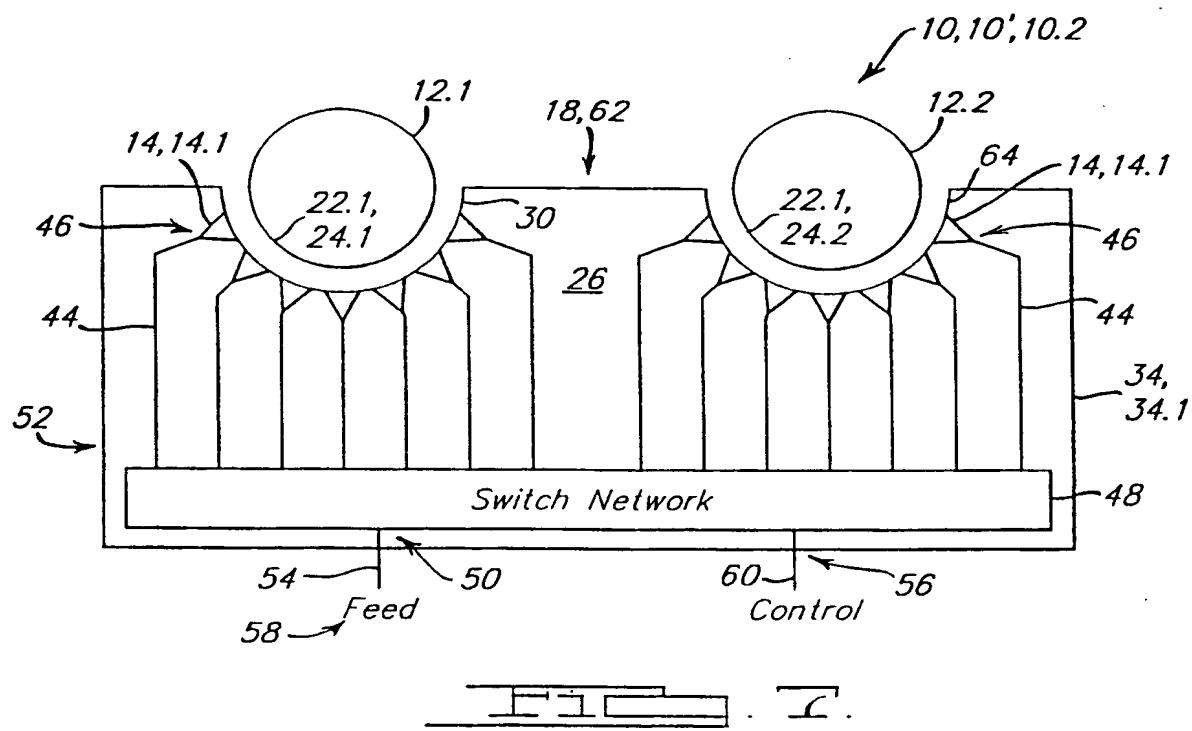
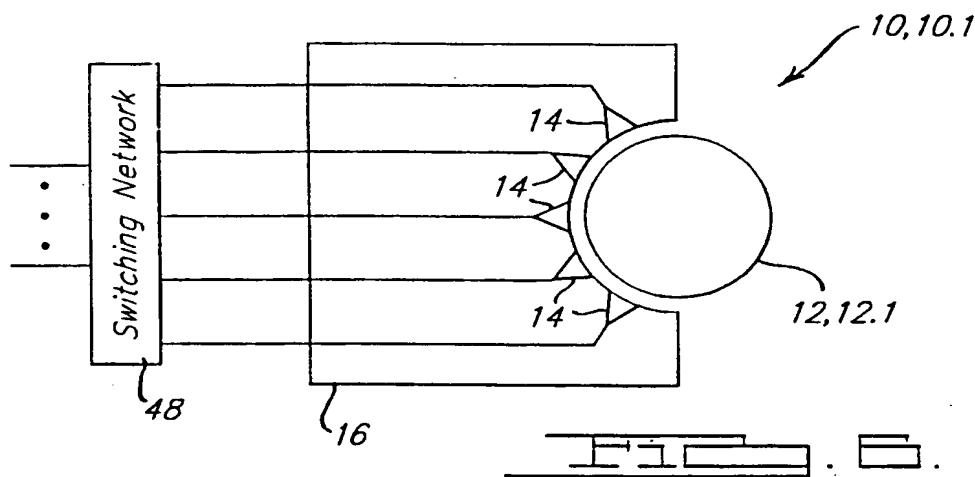
1. A multi-beam antenna, comprising,
 - a. at least one electromagnetic lens, wherein said at least one electromagnetic lens has a first side comprising a first contour at an intersection with a reference surface;
 - b. a dielectric substrate, wherein said dielectric substrate comprises a first edge comprising a second contour proximate to said first contour, said first edge of said dielectric substrate is located on said reference surface, and said first edge is proximate to said first side of one of said at least one electromagnetic lens; and
 - c. a plurality of antenna feed elements on said dielectric substrate along said second contour of said first edge.
2. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said reference surface is a plane.
3. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 2, wherein said plane is substantially close to a center of said electromagnetic lens for said electromagnetic lens having a center.
4. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one electromagnetic lens is selected from a spherical lens, a Luneburg lens, a spherical shell lens, a hemispherical lens, an at least partially spherical lens, an at least partially spherical shell lens, a cylindrical lens, and a rotational lens.
5. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said dielectric substrate comprises a dielectric of a printed circuit board.
6. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein each said antenna feed element comprises a least one conductor operatively connected to said dielectric substrate.
7. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one said antenna feed element comprises an end-fire antenna element adapted to launch electromagnetic waves in a direction substantially towards said first side of said at least one electromagnetic lens, and said direction for at least one said end-fire antenna element is different from said direction for at least another said end-fire antenna element.
8. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 7, wherein said end-fire antenna is selected from a Yagi-Uda antenna, a coplanar horn antenna, a Vivaldi antenna, a tapered dielectric rod, a slot antenna, a dipole antenna, and a helical antenna.

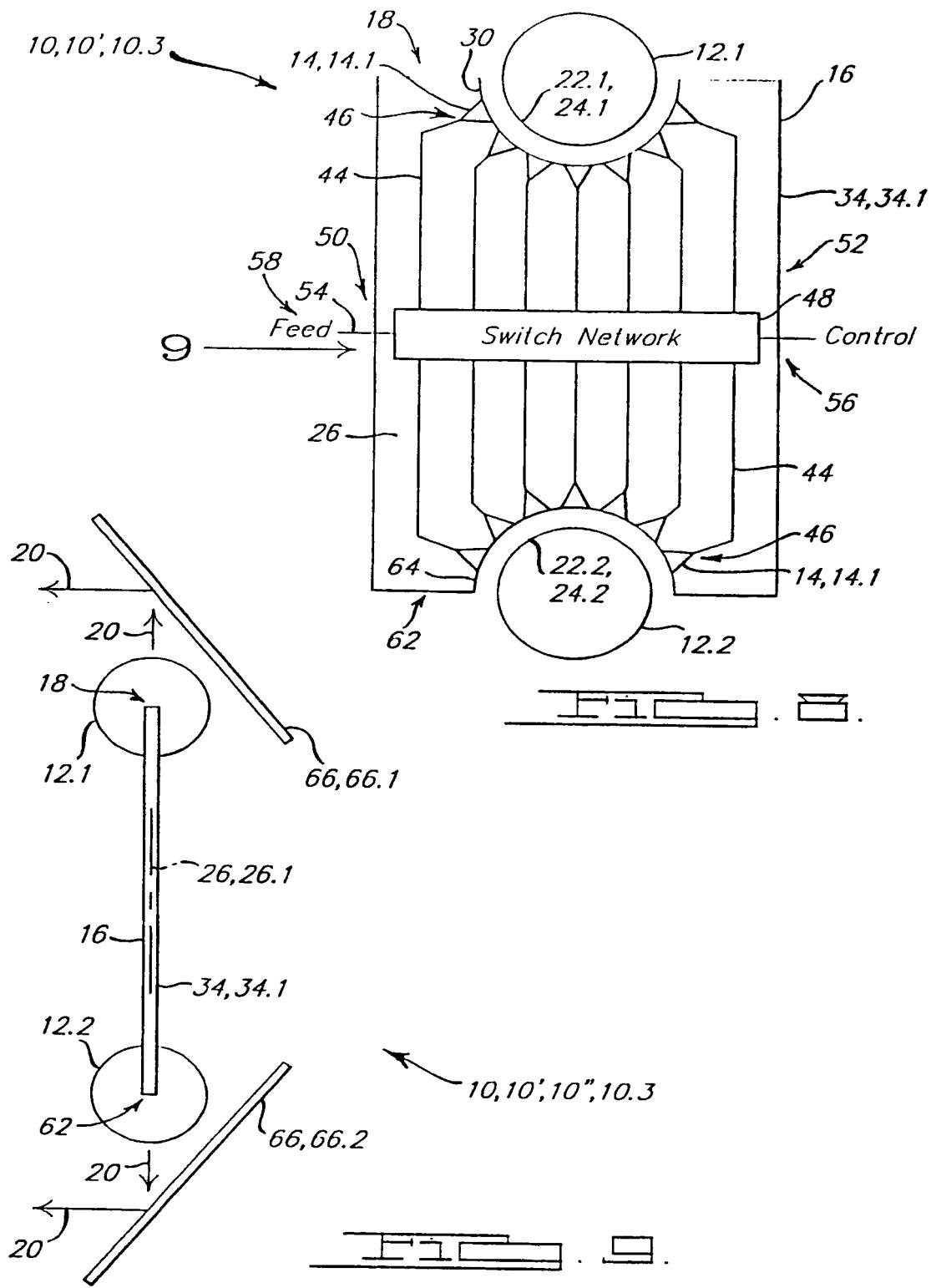
9. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one transmission line on said dielectric substrate, wherein at least one said at least one transmission line is operatively connected to a feed port of one of said plurality of antenna feed elements.
10. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 9, wherein said transmission line is selected from a stripline, a microstrip line, an inverted microstrip line, a slotline, an image line, an insulated image line, a tapped image line, a coplanar stripline, and a coplanar waveguide line.
11. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, further comprising a switching network having an input and a plurality of outputs, said input is operatively connected to a corporate antenna feed port, and each output of said plurality of outputs is connected to a different antenna feed element of said plurality of antenna feed elements.
12. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 9, further comprising a switching network having an input and a plurality of outputs, said input is operatively connected to a corporate antenna feed port, and each output of said plurality of outputs is connected to a different antenna feed element of said plurality of antenna feed elements via said at least one transmission line.
13. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 11, wherein said switching network is operatively connected to said dielectric substrate.
14. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one electromagnetic lens comprises at least a first and a second electromagnetic lens, each of said first and second electromagnetic lenses has a first side, each said first side has a corresponding first contour at an intersection of said first side with said reference surface, said dielectric substrate comprises at least a second edge, said second edge comprises a third contour, said second contour is proximate to said first contour of said first electromagnetic lens, said third contour is proximate to said first contour of said second electromagnetic lens, further comprising at least one antenna feed element on said dielectric substrate along said third contour of said second edge.
15. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 14, wherein said second edge is the same as said first edge and said second and third contours are displaced from one another along said first edge.

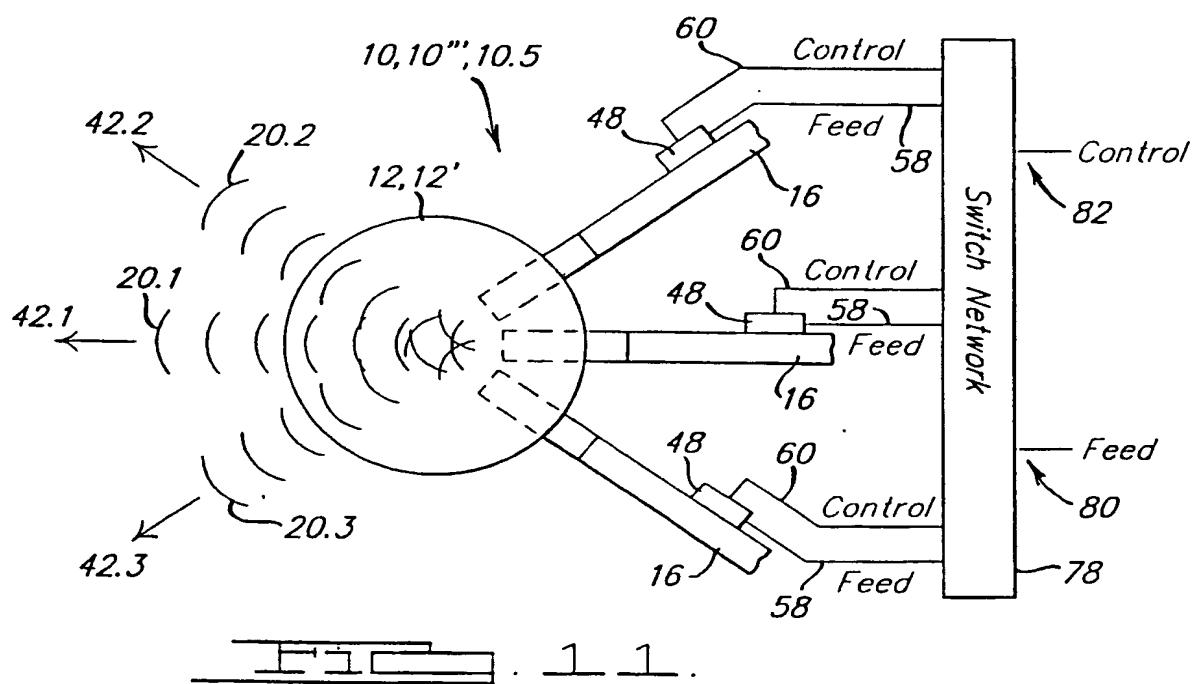
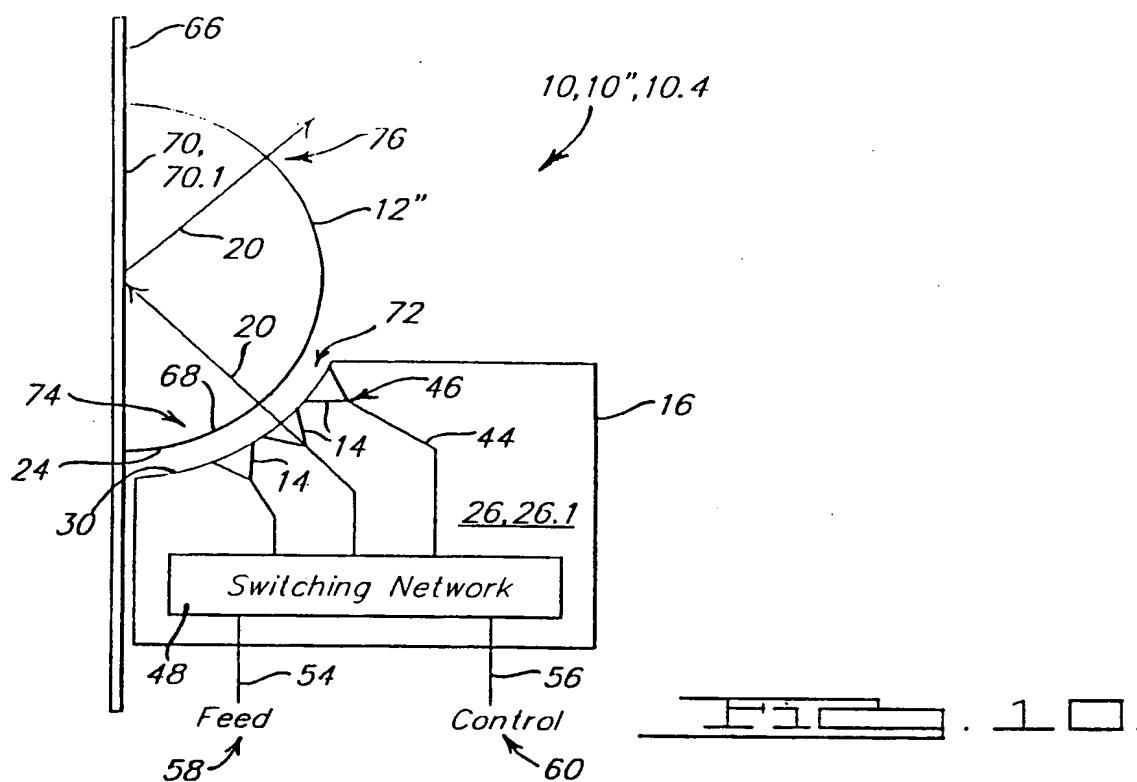
16. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 14, wherein said second edge is different from said first edge.
17. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 14, wherein said second edge is opposite to said first edge.
18. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one reflector, wherein said reference surface intersects said at least one reflector, one of said at least one electromagnetic lens is located between said dielectric substrate and said reflector, and said at least one reflector is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through said at least one electromagnetic lens after being generated by at least one of said plurality of antenna feed elements.
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19. A multi-beam antenna as recited in claim 17, further comprising at least first and second reflectors wherein said reference surface intersects said at least first and second reflectors, said first electromagnetic lens is located between said dielectric substrate and said first reflector, said second electromagnetic lens is located between said dielectric substrate and said second reflector, said first reflector is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through said first electromagnetic lens after being generated by at least one of said plurality of antenna feed elements on said second contour, and said second reflector is adapted to reflect electromagnetic energy propagated through said second electromagnetic lens after being generated by said at least one antenna feed element on said third contour.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/31858

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01Q 15/04, 3/46, 19/06

US CL : 343/754, 911R, 853, 374, 700MS, 911L, 753

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 343/754, 911R, 853, 700MS, 911L, 753, 909, 755, 771; 342/368, 371, 372, 373, 374; 333/84M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passage	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,641,144 A (PRICKETT) 03 February 1987 (03.02.1987), entire document.	1-19
Y	US 4,845,507 A (ARCHER et al.) 04 July 1989 (04.07.1989), entire document.	1-19
Y	US 3,761,936 A (ARCHER et al.) 25 September 1973 (25.09.1973), entire document.	1-19

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 DECEMBER 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 JAN 2001

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